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Orbach nabs silver in Euro-swim touney

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IDF kills two Hizbullah gunmen in Lebanon

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

IDF soldiers struck at a number of Hizbullah squads making their way toward IDF positions just inside the security zone on Friday, killing at least two Hizbullah gunmen and wounding others, the army said.

One IDF soldier was very lightly wounded. Reports from Lebanon said three Hizbullah gunmen were killed in the action. Hizbullah did not confirm that it suffered any casualties.

The firefight sparked a weekend of incessant shelling, culminating with an IAF air raid on Hizbullah mortar positions north of the security zone.

In Beirut, meanwhile, a bomb exploded in a taxi, killing its driver and a member of the Amal militia. Amal, a smaller Syrian-backed Shi'ite Moslem organization, blamed Israel for the killing, but police in Lebanon declined to comment on the move.

The five-nation committee monitoring the understandings reached after Operation Grapes of Wrath yesterday condemned Hizbullah's firing of Katyusha rockets at northern Israel last Monday. The committee

said at the end of four days of talks that it was the responsibility of the Lebanese government to prevent Hizbullah from launching such attacks.

It was the first time that the committee placed responsibility squarely on Lebanon for stopping Hizbullah attacks against Israeli civilians.

Knesset session in Kiryat Shmona slammed, Page 3

The weekend clashes began early Friday when Hizbullah gunmen were detected setting up ambushes against IDF soldiers near the position at Karkum, just over the border from Moshav Zarit. The army said its troops headed off the Hizbullah guerrillas by stealthily moving through the thicket and hills and then wiping them out in a fierce firefight.

The IDF confirmed that two Hizbullah fighters were killed and others were wounded. Lebanese security officials reported that

the clash involved rocket-propelled grenades and heavy automatic gunfire and that Hizbullah responded with a mortar barrage on IDF and SLA targets. Israel replied with 150 shells of 155mm artillery rounds aimed at Hizbullah hideouts and mortar posts, military sources said.

Shortly later, IAF aircraft hit at Hizbullah positions in the villages of Yater, Zibkine and Jebel al-Bootom. Two jets reportedly staged three sorties within an hour, firing at least six missiles.

The IDF confirmed its planes attacked terrorist origins of fire near Yater village, east

of the port city of Tyre, but did not comment on raids near Zibkine.

The IDF said the pilots reported "good" hits. There were no reports of casualties from the air raid.

It was the fourth air strike in Lebanon since Wednesday and the 117th since last year's Operation Grapes of Wrath.

Hizbullah claimed that its guerrillas killed five Israeli soldiers and even downed an Israeli Cobra helicopter gunship, but this was flatly denied by the IDF.

See IDF, Page 2

Netanyahu en route to Far East

By JAY BUSHNISKY and news agencies

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Japanese hosts hope he will update them on the Arrow anti-missile project and on the possible spread of nuclear weapons technology in the Middle East during his three-day official visit to Japan, which begins this evening.

After Tokyo, he proceeds on Wednesday to Seoul, South Korea, for a two-day stay and then flies to Baku, Azerbaijan, on Friday, before returning home.

Experts in Japan's foreign and defense policies believe Tokyo's interest in the weapons buildup will supersede interest in expanding bilateral trade and intensify political involvement in the

Hitchhike murder suspect confesses

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Daniel Okev, 45, a reserve major in the IDF, confessed to police on Friday that he had shot two British hitchhikers - Charlotte Gibb, 20, and her 22-year-old boyfriend Jeffrey Max Hunter - on August 13, after picking them up in Eilat.

Hunter died instantly and Gibb was treated by IDF soldiers, who found her on the road, and then was transferred to Soroka Hospital.

On Friday, Okev, a father of two, was remanded for 15 days by Beersheba Magistrate's Court, where he told police he was unable to give any motive for shooting the two hitchhikers.

He reportedly told police he may suffer from a split personality.

Yesterday police videotaped Okev as he reenacted the crime at the site of the shooting.

"I remember hearing shots fired and the gun was in my hand, I know I hit them because they fell. I don't remember how many shots were fired at them, but after, I looked

around and couldn't see anyone and the gun was in my hand," Okev told police.

Okev said he was returning from Taba and showed police where he picked up Hunter and Gibb at about 1:30 a.m. He told them after traveling along the highway he turned off at Ketzura Junction, turned left at the Tzohar Junction and left again heading in the direction of Mitzpeh Ramon.

Okev said approximately 10 kilometers after the Tzohar Junction he stopped the car near the edge of a cliff, telling Gibb and Hunter he was taking a cigarette break. Okev and Hunter got out of the car and lit up a cigarette. Gibb, who had been sleeping in the back seat, woke up, a few minutes after the car had stopped and joined the two.

Okev said he went to the car and opened the trunk, taking out a bottle of drink, which he sipped. Gibb and Hunter drank from a bottle of mineral water they were carrying, he said. Okev stood at the cliff edge



Daniel Okev (center) is surrounded by policemen during his remand hearing at Beersheba Magistrate's Court Friday. (Avi Mahal, Courtesy of 'Ma'ariv')

and discussed the visible constellations with Hunter and Gibb. He said he spoke to the two in Hebrew and used hand signs, while Hunter translated for Gibb.

Okev said he then returned to the car and asked Gibb and Hunter to get in.

The two, he said, were gazing at the stars. As Gibb and Hunter turned towards the car, Okev picked up a gun that was under his seat and shot at them.

Hunter, who was shot twice, fell to the ground and died instantly.

Okev fired three shots at Gibb, wounding her in the hands and face. Okev said he closed the car doors, turned the car around and headed towards Eilat. He told police he stopped at Kibbutz Samar, where he took the hitchhikers' bags out of the car and burned them.

He told police then continued driving, going through Eilat to Taba, where he parked his car at the border crossing and went through the border into Egypt on foot. He went to the casino at the Hilton Hotel in Taba. The following day he

returned to Israel, picked up his car and drove to his Even Yehuda home.

A policeman at a roadblock set up at the northern entrance to Eilat stopped his car after receiving information that police were searching for a Peugeot 309. Okev told the policeman he was a major in the reserves and the policeman allowed him to pass through.

Several days later, police determined that the car they were searching for belonged to Okev.

Police say the breakthrough in the

murder investigation came last Monday when the policeman at the roadblock recalled seeing a Peugeot 309 pass through. By tracing the car, they found Okev, arresting him on Friday. Upon being arrested, he reportedly told police that he had been waiting for them.

Gibb had given police a detailed description of the man who shot her and Hunter and police reportedly found Hunter's fingerprints in Okev's car.

See CONFESSES, Page 2

complaints to Arafat, Page 2

Netanyahu, however, hopes to deepen trade relations and encourage more investment in Israel, including joint ventures.

"Israel is extremely powerful in innovation and technology, in bringing products to market in one-half the time or one-third the time of our competitors," Netanyahu said. "We have that technological know-how. What we lack is capital and market capacity and this is what so many of the countries of the East, take Japan and Korea ... can bring to bear.

He said he also would reassure investors that a crisis in Israel's relations with the Palestinians should not scare them away.

The experts do not anticipate the same level of hospitality and cordiality that was afforded the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin during his visit to Japan in December 1994.

"Unlike Rabin, who was accommodated in one of the Japanese capital's royal palaces, Netanyahu is being put up in a hotel," one analyst said.

The experts conceded, however, that Japanese protocol requires that heads of government stay in appropriate hotels rather than in palaces and the honor bestowed on Rabin was an exception, evidently made because of his unique status as an international statesman.

Bilateral trade "soared" during Rabin's tenure and Japanese business leaders began investigating prospects of using Israel as the hub of their Middle Eastern operations. But it tapered off and the entrepreneurial enthusiasm declined with the sagging fortunes of the peace process, the experts said.

The Israeli delegation, which includes a large contingent of business executives and senior officials, will not be able to share any aspects of the Arrow missile technology with Japan, however, because it is an exclusively Israeli-American project, they noted.

Alleged Mossad link to JFK murder stirs debate

By TOM TUGEND

LOS ANGELES - Following a day of protests, organizers yesterday canceled a college seminar after a speaker claimed he was going to show how the Mossad masterminded the assassination of president John F. Kennedy.

The incident casts a sharp light on the fevered subculture of conspiracy theorists, which is flourishing on the Internet and is apparently also seeking a foothold in academe.

Early last week, the trustees of the South

Alleged Mossad link to JFK murder stirs debate

Orange County Community College District approved \$5,000 to fly in four guest panelists to participate in a September 26-28 seminar on who was behind Kennedy's November 1963 assassination.

Casting a tie-breaking vote to hold the seminar was Steven T. Frogue, president of the board of trustees and an organizer of the seminar.

Frogue, a high school history teacher, was once removed from the classroom for a year for allegedly making racist comments. He has been

a persistent foe of the Anti-Defamation League and its regional director, Joyce Greenspan.

In a newspaper interview last fall, Frogue labeled the ADL "a group of spies," and declared that "Harvey Lee Oswald [Kennedy's assassin] worked for the ADL..." Frogue invited an eclectic mix of speakers to the seminar, which the college advertised as a "high-quality community education."

See JFK, Page 5

Barak offers party workers 10-day cooling off period

Barricaded employees reject proposal, Peretz weighing it

By SARAH HONG

With striking employees barricading themselves in Labor Party headquarters over Shabbat, party chairman Ehud Barak yesterday proposed a 10-day delay in implementing the dismissals of more than half the staff.

The employees rejected his proposal, but Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz weighed it with senior advisers late last night.

Meanwhile the headquarters on Tel Aviv's Rehov Hayarkon was festooned with black flags and stenciled silhouettes of footprints, above a heading that read: "Barak flees again." Labor staffers celebrated Shabbat with food and drink supplied by the Histadrut.

Barak defended his dismissal of 36 of 70 employees on Friday, saying yesterday he had "not made a mistake."

"The dismissals were the outcome of absolute necessity. The party is in deep debt. We are in the red to the tune of NIS 85 million. We have no funds for any political activity. Everything goes to the pay-

roll."

Few, if any, Labor politicians came out in Barak's defense. He was widely accused of being insensitive at the party's Knesset faction meeting on Friday.

"If this is how you continue behaving, you have no hope of ever becoming prime minister," MK Eli Ben-Menahem said.

MK Eitan Cabel charged that "Barak regards this party as a liability. Why was no one among the MKs and the more experienced politicians consulted?"

The faction appointed Ben-Menahem and MKs Avraham Shohat and Yossi Katz to discuss the issue with the employees.

Peretz met late last night with senior legal advisers about whether to accept Barak's offer of a 10-day cooling-off period, during which negotiations with the workers would begin.

Before Barak offered the compromise, the Histadrut announced plans to bring the issue to the Tel Aviv Labor Court today and seek an injunction against the dismissals.

Weizmann Institute develops 'molecular radar'

By JUDY SIEGEL

Weizmann Institute researchers have become the first in the world to track biochemical signaling by enzymes inside a cell when it actually occurs.

The discovery - the subject of a cover story in the August 22 issue of *Science* - could increase understanding of embryonic development and how the signaling process goes haywire in diseases such as cancer.

"Previously, in studying message transmission inside the cells of a developing organism, we scientists were rather like people at an airport watching the planes take off and land," said Prof. Ben-Zion Shilo, head of the Rehovot institute's molecular genetics department.

"We could make some intelligent inferences about where the planes were going or where they

had come from, but we couldn't see the course the plane was following," Shilo said.

He said that a method, part of a new "molecular radar" project, "gives us the ability equivalent to that of an air-traffic controller who looks at the dots on the radar screen to follow the movements of each plane step by step."

"We can suddenly look at processes in a cell or an embryo as they are happening, and don't have to infer things from consequences anymore," Shilo said.

The discovery could help resolve the mystery surrounding how cells that divide in formation of an embryo manage to form the different types of tissue involved in the makeup of a human or animal body.

The cells differentiate as a result of changes in genetic makeup, which are determined by signals or hormones released that attach to

a receptor and set off a biochemical chain reaction that makes sure all the cell's molecules have "got the message."

This process, called phosphorylation, is what researchers Dr. Rony Seger and Limor Gabay, a doctoral student of the molecular genetics department, worked with, along with Shilo.

Using fruit flies, the team developed antibodies that would react only with molecules phosphorylated in a particular way. Since they could trace the antibodies, the researchers were actually able to observe the pathway of signal transmission in real time.

They followed the signal transmitted by a hormone-like messenger called epidermal growth factor (EGF) from when it attached to its receptor on the cell membrane until it delivered the message to genes in the cell nucleus.

They could see exactly when

and where the signal was passed on and which cells in the embryo were affected by EGF at different stages of embryonic development.

The "molecular radar" technique can be used also to probe phosphorylation in other organisms, including humans, Shilo said. He said it could shed light on both normal development and uncontrolled tissue growth, as in tumors.

"It could be a useful diagnostic tool to find where things are going wrong," Shilo said. "If you can see where things are going wrong, you can set about finding specific ways to stop them."

The research was partly supported by grants from the US-Israel Bi-National Science Foundation, the UK-Israel Science and Technology Research Fund, the US Tobacco Research Council and the Minerva Foundation in Munich.



NEWS in brief

Report: School year to start on time

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman announced last night that they had agreed on the education budget for the coming year...

Search under way for missing soldier

Soldiers and police launched a massive search Friday for IDF soldier Guy Hever, who has been reported missing from his base on the Golan Heights since last Sunday.

US advises Americans to be cautious in Israel

The US said on Friday that violent attacks in Israel recently "have shifted to pedestrian centers and shopping centers."

Former justice Moshe Etzioni dies

Former Supreme Court justice Moshe Etzioni died yesterday at the age of 79. Etzioni started his legal career during the British mandate and served as president of the Haifa Magistrate's Court.

Taiba woman killed in car accident

A 23-year-old Taiba resident died yesterday morning shortly after her car swerved off the road and overturned while she was on her way from Taiba to Tira.

Long-time Knesset Clerk Shmuel Jacobson dies

By LIAT COLLINS

Shmuel Jacobson, who was the Knesset clerk for 14 years until his retirement in January, died Friday night at the age of 68.



Shmuel Jacobson

On hearing of Jacobson's death, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon said: "The 121st MK has passed away. Jacobson worked for 47 years in the Knesset and was for me the pillar of Israeli democracy."

Jacobson started his Knesset career at the age of 21 as a Knesset recorder. He was promoted over the years and held various positions, including deputy Knesset clerk and acting clerk...

PA: We're protecting officials against Israeli attacks

By JOH IMMANUEL

The Palestinian Authority said yesterday that it was taking steps to protect its leaders, following a report that Israel was preparing an assassination team to kill Hamas officials and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Hassan Asfour, a senior Oslo negotiator, said the Palestinian Cabinet and PLO executive committee discussed the issue on Friday in Ramallah.

"The Palestinian side wants a clear answer from the Israeli side about the news that there is a commando team prepared to murder Hamas leaders and President Arafat," he said...

The PA deemed the reports credible because, following the Mahaneh Yehuda bombing on July 30, Israel demanded the arrest of more than 200 Islamic radicals...

"We cannot take the report [of assassin teams] as a joke,"

Asfour said. "We know this government is serious in trying to destroy the peace process. We are prepared for a new occupation. If this period returns we will prepare any means against it."

Amidst the general decline in cooperation over the past six months, Azmi Shuabi, the initiator of a national service bill in the Palestinian Legislative Council...

At a meeting of Israeli and Palestinian journalists in Ramallah, sponsored by the International Center for Peace in the Middle East, he said, "We are afraid of madmen and security forces who will try to attack Palestinian institutions..."

Shuabi, former PA sports and youth minister, said he anticipated that some trainees would pass the training course and be issued light weapons.

"Oslo does not forbid training," he said. "We can train as many as we like in the use of light weapons, just as we train potential police recruits, and then dismiss most of them as not suitable..."

day be called up to use weapons if the peace process died. Shuabi said Israel should be grateful that the PA wants to absorb youth into its military ranks...

Arafat has told reporters in Ramallah he expected "worse to come" due to the deteriorating state of the peace process, held out the possibility that "all options are open" and insisted that his unity talks with Hamas were an internal affair...

A Hamas leaflet which responded to US criticism of the PA's attitude to a security crackdown, said that "the US is the main enemy of peace. This is a degrading peace which the US is trying to impose on the Palestinian people..."

Shuabi's proposal that high-school graduates be drafted for compulsory national service of six months to one year was originally presented as an effective way of contributing to the Palestinian economy...

At the time David Bar-Ilan, the prime minister's communications director, called it "a camouflage for openly setting up an army draft. That a draft has been announced is a severe violation of the Oslo accords."

Netanyahu complains to Albright

News agencies

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu phoned US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright last night to complain that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat was not honoring the agreements reached with US envoy Dennis Ross during the latter's recent visit...

chairman's recent extreme statements are not contributing to the peace process.

Netanyahu also phoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Hussein, warning them that the peace process is in danger unless there was a real change in the Palestinian leader's stance toward Islamic militants, a statement said.

Netanyahu has demanded that Arafat round up Hamas activists, disarm the group and cut off its funding.

He said that Arafat's recent meeting with the heads of Hamas and Islamic Jihad and the PA

3 border policemen released on bail

News agencies

The three border policemen accused of severely beating two Palestinians with logs and rocks were released Friday on NIS 95,000 bail each.

The three will remain under house arrest until the start of their trial on charges of aggravated assault, abduction and abuse of power, said court spokesman Moshe Gorali.

No date has been set. Jerusalem District Court Judge Daniela Wexler said the recently reformed detention laws did not allow her to keep the three in custody any longer even though the defendants' actions were extraor-

dinary in their cruelty, Israel Radio reported.

The indictment said the officers stopped the two Palestinians earlier this month at a Jerusalem checkpoint and took them to a secluded forest, where they beat them with logs and rocks. One man was tied by his leg to their jeep and dragged along the ground for several dozen meters, the indictment said.

The three defendants - 21-year-old Michael Odenko, 22-year-old Shai Ashtamker and 20-year-old Nissim Adolter - have reportedly confessed to the beatings of Mahmoud Reoim and Ahmed Moussa.



A PA policeman watches a youth throw stones at IDF troops near Rachel's Tomb yesterday (Reuters)

Palestinians stone soldiers near Rachel's Tomb

By JOH IMMANUEL

Some 300 Palestinians took part in a march on an IDF post by Rachel's Tomb next to Bethlehem yesterday to protest the continued closure of the town.

IDF troops responded with tear gas and rubber bullets when some of the several dozen youths who arrived at the tomb threw stones towards them. Many of the youths wore keffiyehs to hide their faces. At one point, some of the protesters burned an Israeli flag.

A similar protest by Fatah, including keffiyeh-wearing youths carrying automatic weapons, was held in the Palestinian-controlled section of Hebron to protest Israeli policies.

Palestinian police wearing gas masks looked on but did not intervene. No injuries were reported.

Israel has continued the internal closure on Bethlehem and its suburbs, after removing it from all other West Bank towns more than a week ago. This is because of reports that the explosives used in the Mahaneh Yehuda bombing

may have come from a bomb factory discovered in Beit Sahr, which is next to Bethlehem, and because the second wanted Islamic terror planner, Moheddin Sherif, was hiding in the town.

The Bethlehem march was joined by senior local officials, who complained that the continued closure was destroying tourism and business.

"They will lift the closure or we will burn the ground underneath their feet," one masked youth told Reuters.

"Our son was with us for 22 wonderful years and we are thankful for every day we spent by his side," he said.

Hunter's father said Gibb's condition was improving rapidly and that she was glad to hear that police had arrested a suspect.

CONFESS

Continued from Page 1

Okev's wife Metuka told Channel 1 last night that she had been able to speak with her husband on the phone and he told her to be strong and apologized for hurting his children.

"He can't explain what happened. It is not like him, he never hurt anyone, never shouted or lifted a finger [against] the children or anyone else," she said.

Neighbors were reportedly shocked on hearing the news, saying Okev was a helpful, quiet per-

son. "It must have been a moment of craziness," said his wife, adding, "he didn't hide anything, clean the car or throw away the gun."

Meanwhile in an interview on Army Radio, Hunter's father Norman praised the police, adding that he had thought his son had been the victim of a terrorist attack.

"I was surprised to learn that the suspect is an IDF officer," he said. "It is a shame that a person who is trained by the army uses his training to kill innocent people."

He said he was glad that the police had acted swiftly in finding

the person responsible for his son's murder.

"I think only about my son's girlfriend, who will continue to suffer for a long time. We comfort ourselves in believing that our son has gone to a better place and we are not interested in bearing the murderer's motive, but my wife feels sorry for him," he said.

"Our son was with us for 22 wonderful years and we are thankful for every day we spent by his side," he said.

Hunter's father said Gibb's condition was improving rapidly and that she was glad to hear that police had arrested a suspect.

IDF

Continued from Page 1

In Beirut, a bomb exploded in the capital's central district, killing Khalil Musawi, a military official in Amal, and Abdel Reda Barakat, a driver of a pro-Syrian minister, a source close to the minister told Reuters.

An Amal statement blamed the blast on Israel and said that Amal militiamen would continue attacking IDF and SLA forces in retaliation. There was no immediate reaction from Israel on Amal's accusations.

Barakat was a part-time driver of Social Affairs Minister Ayyoub

Hmayyed, a senior political official of Amal.

AP reported that the bomb went off near Musawi's car. Musawi, AP said, was also a reporter for the state-run National News Agency in the village of Tibnin, and witnesses said he had just returned to Beirut from a visit to southern Lebanon.

The Knesset the Knesset Speaker the Knesset Deputy Speakers the Knesset Members the Knesset Secretary the Knesset Officer Knesset workers, Knesset guards and retired Knesset staff Mourn with pain the passing of SHMUEL JACOBSON Former Knesset Secretary We express our condolences to the family

Our beloved MANJA KARMON-KLEIN has left us forever after a long, bravely fought battle. Marianne Karmon Stefan, Yael, Nina Klein Singapore, August 21, 1997

We sadly mourn the passing in South Africa of our dear son and brother CEDRIC LIPTZ mother, Jenny Liptz sister, Brenda Rosin brother, Paul Liptz Please no condolence visits

LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense STRENGTHENING SOCIETY In Israel today, there are thousands of young people that have dropped out of the educational system. They do not work, do not study on a regular basis, and are in danger of drifting to the margins of society - a no-man's-land of alienation. For All Our Sakes, this Must Not Happen Since its founding the Libi Fund has striven to help young people with low suitability for army service to enlist, and improve their status with the help of the Education Corps. The Corps' instructors offer such soldiers education and vocational training, and the opportunity for personal and social rehabilitation, making them into good soldiers and citizens. The contributions of the public to the Libi Fund help the Fund absorb more such young people. Donors thus become partners in strengthening Israel's society. LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense 17 Rehov Aramia, Haidrya, Tel Aviv 64734, Israel Tel. 03-6975183, 03-268206, 03-6935610



Cooling off
Montreal Canadiens hockey coach Roger Neilson (center) hits the ice last week at the Canada Center in Metulla with four participants in a two-week hockey camp sponsored by the United Israel Appeal of Canada for young local and Canadian hockey players. (See Malcolms)

Decision to hold Knesset session in K. Shmona slammed

By LIAT COLLINS

The decision by Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon to hold the special session of the Knesset Wednesday in Kiryat Shmona has come under fire from Jerusalem Mayor and Likud MK Ehud Olmert and Labor MK Yona Yahav. Yahav has asked Knesset legal adviser Zvi Inbar and the Knesset House Committee to review the decision and establish strict criteria on holding sessions outside the capital, in keeping with the spirit of the Basic Law: The Knesset. Paragraph 26 of The Basic Law: The Knesset says Knesset sittings will take place in the Knesset building "but under special circumstances the Speaker is permitted, in consultation with the deputy speakers, to convene the Knesset in another place." "The circumstances which led the Speaker to decide to hold a special sitting in Kiryat Shmona are not the circumstances which the legislators intended," said Yahav. "Strict criteria should be established to avoid a situation in which the Knesset holds meetings

outside of Jerusalem without sufficiently good reason. "Turning the Knesset into the 'Country Tours Co.' harms the centrality of Jerusalem. No parliament in the world acts like this and it would be best for the Knesset to also stick to the principle of not leaving Jerusalem, the capital." Tichon said last night in response that the decision to hold the special session in Kiryat Shmona was made in consultation with the deputy speakers. "It is an act of solidarity with residents of the north who have suffered years of unprecedented security problems and not in view of a specific incident," Tichon said. "More than once residents of the north have expressed the feeling, following security incidents, that the rest of the country's citizens are not full partners to the difficulties they have to cope with. The unusual decision taken to hold the meeting in Kiryat Shmona is a gesture symbolizing the unity of Israel." The special session was called in the recess by 60 MKs from the opposition and coalition to discuss security and economic issues.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW MICHAL YULDEMAN

The mood of despair deriving from the collapse of the peace process, the economic slowdown and unprecedented high unemployment, was picked up and reflected by the weekend media. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's election promises are like an iceberg which accidentally reached the Sabara desert: They are melting rapidly. From the "secure peace" remains no security and no peace, says Ha'aretz's Yoel Marcus in his column "Dream thief." "Netanyahu has frozen somewhere in the mentality of a UN ambassador. Information is all. Tactics for the moment is everything," Marcus writes. When it suits him, Netanyahu says there is no peace with terrorism; when it suits him, he says there is no connection between the peace process and terrorism. "When it suits him, economics and peace go hand in hand; when it suits him otherwise, he says economy can thrive without peace. His verbal reactions after terrorist attacks or Katyushas are the same rusty cliches we've been hearing for two-three decades. But a leader is not measured by slogans, or by lowering expectations, or by scaring the nation, or extinguishing the light at the end of the tunnel, but by marking an attainable final stop," he states. Our previous prime ministers, notes Marcus, "who give us a dream, who knew how to impart the feeling that the last stop was worth the price, are those who will be

remembered in history. The shortsighted, obstinate ones, who entrenched themselves in erroneous concepts and had no vision and no method, are those who brought us the wars and disasters." Netanyahu, says Marcus, belongs to the shortsighted, obstinate group and is in fact a male Golda Meir. He has no solution to any problem, be it Lebanon, terrorism or advancing the peace. He is practicing his next CBS or CNN appearance by making mistakes at our expense. "The reducer of expectations and dream thief is taking from the public its most precious asset: hope." Despair as a way of life In an article entitled "Profile of despair" Ma'ariv's Michal Kafra goes to Ofakim, whose unemployment rate is the country's highest, with 1,700 job seekers, not counting 220 whose rights to unemployment compensation have just expired. Most of Ofakim's residents voted for the Likud, but the mayor is Labor's Micha Herman. Herman tells Kafra how the Likud government cut down on benefits for entrepreneurs and reneged on promises to investors, thus driving away Vishay Intertechnology, which had planned to open a factory in Ofakim. The directors-general committee headed by Avigdor Liberman is ignoring Ofakim, as is Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, whom Herman has tried to meet dozens of

times without success. The unemployment is also increasing domestic violence, and with children who cannot go to courses or even to the swimming pool for lack of money, crime and drugs are on the rise. "Anyone who understands a little in Israeli politics knows Herman and Ofakim have slim chances of getting any sympathy from this government. Friends he certainly doesn't have in this government. Neither has Ofakim," writes Kafra. Yediot Aharonot's Yael Gevirtz visits several unemployment-afflicted towns looking for anger, but finding only despair. She notes that for many of the residents, who, incidentally voted for Netanyahu by a large majority, despair has become a way of life. They will not demonstrate in the streets. They continue hating Labor, whose government poured funds into them, and support Netanyahu, who closed the faucet, she concludes. Ha'aretz's business editor Nehemia Strasser analyzes the economic situation, concluding that the reasons for the growing unemployment and recession are political and security-oriented. The two large steam engines which moved the economy forwards in 1994 and 1995 were stopped abruptly: There is no peace process, and the immigration from the former Soviet Union is dwindling. The stalling of the peace process is driving away international companies that began

investing in Israel after the Oslo agreement, because they believed Israel would turn into a regional economic-financial center. Netanyahu reminds Strasser of a juggler whose three balls are up in the air, instead of just one. Castles in the sand The prime minister's family holiday is no more than a professional obligation, writes Yossi Klein in Ha'aretz, in a column about how Netanyahu's vacation was marketed to the public, "because his subjects don't know, actually, what he does, what the work of a prime minister is. It is doubtful whether he himself does." Klein then proceeds to describe the difficulties of driving to a simple sail on the Kinneret in a convoy of cars with closed curtains, of eating mini-schnitzels in pita when a gorilla in dark glasses and a gun is staring at you blankly. The public on Ginnosar beach gazed in amazement at the state convoy, sweaty police with automatic rifles, suspicious men with small earphones, gray cars with flashing lights, broadcasting vans and mysterious buzzes from long antennae. It began as a good week for Bibi, continues Klein. "The photographs showed lots of sand and few security guards, a lot of Sara and not one Yvette [Lieberman]. Then something went wrong. It began with the report of the 150,000 unemployed, while the father and son were building, in Caesarea of all places, castles in the sand. Then came the Katyushas."

Club Med to close northern resort

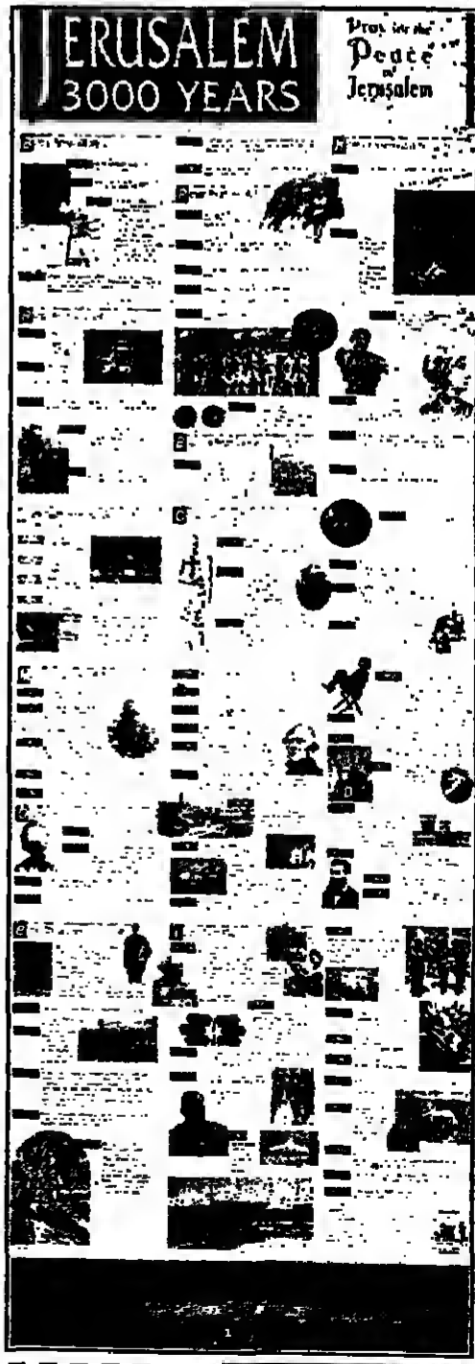
Club Med said on Friday that it will close its beach resort in northern Israel as a result of recent rocket attacks from Lebanon. The resort at Achziv, with cabanas on the Mediterranean about 12 km. south of the Lebanese border, was scheduled to close in early October but instead would shut down today, a spokeswoman said on condition of anonymity. (AP)

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Today, Sunday, August 24, 1997, the National Insurance Institute will be paying a tuition grant for the 1997-98 school year to those single-parent families entitled to child allowances. The grant will be paid for every child born during the period between December 7, 1983 and December 7, 1991 (ages 6-14).

SIZE OF GRANT

- For children born during the period between January 2, 1987 and December 7, 1991 - 18% of the average tuition (NIS 975 per child).
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- Are an abandoned wife (aguna).
- Are a new immigrant who has been in Israel more than one year and less than two years and whose spouse has not immigrated to Israel or is living here.

Anyone who considers himself eligible for this grant, according to the above criteria, should apply to the Nil branch nearest his home for the grant. Applicants must present documents attesting to their status.

The grant will be paid directly into your bank account by September 20, 1997.
You are requested not to contact to the Nil branch offices before clarifying whether the grant has been deposited into your account.

There will be an open line for questions regarding the grant on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, August 24-26, 1997, between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

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Scare forces Burger King to remove beef

By SCOTT BAUER

COLUMBUS, Nebraska (AP) — Ham-and-cheese sandwiches replaced Whoppers at 700 Burger Kings across America this weekend as the largest meat recall in US history sent the fast-food chain scrambling for new beef suppliers.

The Hudson Foods Inc., hamburger parties were pulled Thursday night and Friday in a scramble to remove beef possibly tainted with the E. coli bacteria from consumers.

The recall of 25 million pounds (11 million kilos) of hamburger processed at a Hudson Foods plant here forced menu changes and inventory overhauls across the country, from Boston Market restaurants to Safeway, Wal-Mart and Sam's Club stores.

But Burger King, America's second-largest fast-food chain, was far most visibly affected: 1,650 restaurants in 28 states or one of every four Burger Kings in the US. Seven hundred of those couldn't immediately replace their beef and had to substitute ham-and-cheese sandwiches and bacon-lettuce-

and-tomato sandwiches for the Whopper. Beef's biggest competitors — chicken, pork and fish — also got a boost.

"I don't think I'll come back for a while," said Terry Brault, who settled for a fish sandwich at a Burger King in Minneapolis. "I should have gone to McDonald's."

Burger King normally serves 4.6 million Whoppers a day, making it the world's largest-selling burger. But the company lost sales and even suspended a promotion for a new hickory-smoked Whopper.

"Absolutely, customers are concerned," said Paul Clayton, North American president of Miami-based Burger King Corp.

"Obviously, our sales are probably not what we'd want them to be," Clayton said. Burger King pulled the meat as a precaution. It maintains a separate production line at the Hudson Foods plant and its own testing showed no contamination. He said the chain's flame-broiled cooking system guarantees beef is cooked at least to 155 F (68 C), which would kill E. coli bacteria.

Judge gives go ahead for sexual harassment suit against Clinton

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (AP) — A judge has permitted Paula Corbin Jones to go ahead with a sexual harassment lawsuit against President Clinton — but dismissed the claim that he defamed her.

US District Judge Susan Webber Wright said Friday she hoped the trial set for May 27 would take much less time than the lawyers' estimate of four weeks.

"I would hope we could try this case in five or six days — it doesn't look like a case that's worth anything more than that," she said.

In addition to dismissing the allegation that Clinton had defamed the former Arkansas state employee, the judge dismissed a claim that Mrs. Jones had been denied due process. The central allegation of sexual harassment was allowed to stand.

Clinton's attorney, Robert S. Bennett, asked that the trial begin in January, but agreed to wait until May.

Mrs. Jones' claims for emotional distress and outrage also remain part of the lawsuit, as does her claim of defamation against State Trooper Danny Ferguson, who was Clinton's bodyguard.

Mrs. Jones, who lives in California, sued Clinton in 1994, alleging he propositioned her three years previously, while he was Arkansas governor and she was a state worker. She claims she was transferred to a dead-end job after rejecting Clinton's advances in a downtown hotel room in the state capital during an economic conference.

Clinton denies Mrs. Jones' allegations and has asked that her lawsuit be dismissed. Clinton's lawyers also argue that even if he did make a pass once at Mrs. Jones, it would not have been harassment if it was dropped as soon as Mrs. Jones turned him down.

Clinton's lawyers last week asked the judge to limit initial questioning of potential witnesses to what allegedly happened at the



Paula Jones (left) and her husband, Steve Jones, outside the federal courthouse in Little Rock, Arkansas, on Friday, after a judge permitted her to go ahead with a sexual harassment suit against President Bill Clinton. (Reuters)



President Clinton walks beneath a nightclub sign reading 'Love and Happiness' on Friday, in Edgartown, Massachusetts. Clinton visited the club to attend a birthday party for first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's aide Kelly Craighead. (Reuters)

Excelsior Hotel on May 8, 1991. Such limits are appropriate, they said, because if no evidence is found that Clinton harassed Mrs. Jones, it would be pointless for her lawyers to interview others.

Mrs. Jones' lawyers have subpoenaed a former White House employee to ask her whether Clinton ever made sexual advances toward her. Her lawyers also have asked Arkansas state agencies to turn over employment records that mention Mrs. Jones, any allegations or suggestions of sexual improprieties by Clinton, and the employment-related records of state troopers assigned to Clinton. Three troopers have alleged they took Clinton to sexual trysts while he was governor, but one said last month that he confirmed stories that he knew to be untrue.

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Mir prospects brighter after repair job

By DAVE CARPENTER

MOSCOW (AP) - The crew on Mir yesterday enjoyed a well-earned break, after apparently resolving a power problem on the aging space station and likely ensuring the Americans will send another astronaut aloft.

Most ground controllers, pleased and relieved after Friday's grueling repair mission, also were resting, while the crew relaxed and did cleanup work. Journalists were barred from Mission Control and officials' telephones rang unanswered.

After weeks of focusing on how to restore power lost in a June collision with a runaway cargo ship, the crews on both Mir and Earth still won't know for sure until after their weekend breather whether the efforts paid off.

On Monday, cosmonauts Anatoly Solovoyov and Pavel Vinogradov and American astronaut Michael Foale are to chart out their next fix-it job and begin trying to bring the

newly reconnected solar panels back on line.

"This is what we want to do, at least," Mission Control chief Vladimir Solovoyov said Friday at the end of the interior spacewalk. "What will happen next we don't know." Barring another serious mishap, the repair job seems to have removed lingering doubt about the Russian-US partnership, put in question by the June 25 crash.

While NASA has avoided making a final commitment with the Mir mired in crisis all summer, an official at the US space agency indicated after Friday's success that the decision to replace Foale with David Wolf next month is all but assured.

"We feel very good that we're going to be able to achieve the program that we had planned for David" and his replacement, said Jim Van Laak, deputy director of NASA's shuttle-Mir program.

If he gets the go-ahead as expected, Wolf will head to the Mir on the space shuttle Atlantis on Sept. 25. He is to stay

aboard the station until early 1998, when one final US astronaut will replace him.

President Clinton has said that while he is inclined not to cut US ties to the Mir, a decision whether to continue US participation hinges on the status of repairs.

In the meantime, Foale may get to participate in the next repair mission Sept. 3 - one of another five spacewalks needed to try to fix the ruptured Spektr module that was bashed by a cargo ship eight weeks ago.

The first and perhaps most challenging was performed Friday, when Vinogradov and Solovoyov reopened the sealed module and reconnected 11 electric cables linking the Spektr's solar batteries with the rest of the station's power system.

The only thing they couldn't accomplish was to find the hole or holes caused by the crash - "to our great disappointment," as Solovoyov put it.

But both sides were happy with the overall results. "I'm sure it's helping to boost morale," Van Laak said.

Mars Pathfinder problem may be solved

LOS ANGELES (AP) - NASA scientists believe they may have found a way to keep the Mars Pathfinder from resetting its computer and breaking its connection to Earth.

Project Manager Brian Muirhead said Friday the crew at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory has theorized the computer keeps resetting because of the order in which it gets its commands. By rearranging those commands, NASA hopes to keep its connection with the spacecraft steady and avoid losing more data.

Russia space program will outlive Mir

By DAVE CARPENTER

MOSCOW (AP) - Sometime soon - in six months, a year, three years - the last cosmonaut will check out of the Mir and the venerable space station will be put out to orbital pasture, doomed to burn up in re-entry or fall to Earth in pieces.

But Russia's manned space program, despite its well-documented money troubles, won't crash and burn with it.

Rallying behind the maligned

program at a time of intense international scrutiny, the Kremlin has made clear it doesn't intend to give up a last proud symbol of Russian supremacy - economic crisis or not.

The Mir's summer-long travails, ironically, seem to have brightened Russia's future in space by provoking the government to make new financial and moral commitments.

"Clearly they've stretched themselves to the limit at this point," said Marcia Smith, space policy specialist for the Congressional Research Service in Washington.

President Boris Yeltsin erased any notion of the program fading away with the Mir, just hours before cosmonauts performed vital repairs Friday to help restore power to the damaged station.

In a nationwide radio address, he called space exploration one of Russia's "greatest responsibilities" and said space and aviation would get "special attention."

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US probing possible deal between DNC, Teamsters

By BRIAN DUFFY and JEFF GLASSER

WASHINGTON (The Washington Post) - The Justice Department is investigating whether officials of the Democratic National Committee improperly directed contributions to the re-election campaign of Teamsters President Ron Carey, in return for union contributions to President Clinton's election campaign, government officials and other sources said.

Teamsters were among the biggest givers to the Democratic Party last year, and Carey was in an extremely tight race against James Hoffa Jr. for the Teamsters presidency and in need of funds.



Ron Carey (AP) James Hoffa Jr. (AP)

Documents obtained by The Washington Post show that DNC officials discussed raising substantial sums for Carey, whose re-election was overturned by a federal official Friday, setting the stage for a new faceoff with Hoffa.

Despite Friday's decision, a federal grand jury in New York will continue examining fund-raising activities by Carey's re-election campaign last year, government officials said.

It had previously been disclosed that Justice Department investigators were examining links between the Teamsters and the DNC.

The Manhattan grand jury earlier this month indicted two union consultants who worked for the DNC - telemarketer Michael Ansara and direct mail consultant Martin Davis - charging that they diverted union funds to Carey's re-election effort.

But the newly available documents suggesting that DNC officials directed contributions to Carey's re-election effort has prompted government investigators to examine the ties between the union and the DNC more closely, officials said this week.

"What's being looked at, quite simply, is whether there was a quid pro quo," one official said.

Individuals familiar with the inquiry said Ansara is cooperating with federal prosecutors and FBI agents in the investigation of whether other Democratic Party activists may have donated money to Carey's re-election effort.

Federal prosecutors have also questioned DNC Finance Director Richard Sullivan about notes he took indicating that Democratic contributors were directed to make contributions to the Carey campaign in exchange for contributions to the Clinton campaign.

Sullivan met with the prosecutors voluntarily in early August, according to sources, and answered questions for about two hours.

Working for Hamilton in the Teamsters DRIVE operation, Dougher noted last month: "I raised money for Carey

\$150,000." Dougher's attorney, Jeffrey Poston, said Friday that her work on behalf of the Carey campaign was proper and did not involve the DNC.

"To the extent that Ms. Dougher was involved in fund-raising for the Ron Carey campaign, it was done on her own personal time, not on the Teamster's time," Poston said. "It was cleared through the Teamsters general counsel's office, and it did not involve any DNC personnel or donors. It's 100 percent legal and proper."

Hamilton, who last month resigned from the union and said he would no longer cooperate with investigators, did not return a phone call seeking comment.

Carey's campaign manager, Jerry Nash, also has close ties to the Clintons. In the fall of 1996, Nash spent afternoons working for the Clinton-Gore campaign.

His mornings were devoted to Carey's re-election. "According to Mr. Carey, Mr. Nash never said that he was working for other clients during this time period," according to a report released Friday by the Teamsters federal election overseer, Barbara Zack Quindlen.

Under federal law, it is illegal for an organization outside a union to pay, lend or give money to any officer or employee of a labor organization "with intent to influence him in respect to any of his actions or duties as a representative of employees."

A Washington Post analysis of internal Teamsters records shows that the Teamsters DRIVE and Education and Legislative funds donated at least \$267,000 to Democratic state parties during October and the early days of November 1996. According to Federal Election Commission records, the Teamsters donated \$2.9 million to individual Democratic campaigns for the 1996 elections. Until Carey was elected president of the union in 1991, the Teamsters traditionally contributed to Republicans in presidential elections.

According to several officials and others familiar with the inquiry, a central figure in the relationship between the DNC and the Carey campaign is Davis, the direct mail consultant who has worked for the union and the DNC. Davis is a business partner with Hal Malchow, whose companies received at least \$19 million in DNC business last year. Malchow has not been accused of any impropriety.

Several individuals said that Davis lobbied Sullivan and other DNC officials last year to direct contributions to Carey's re-election campaign. "Martin tried to do the quid pro quo," said a person who discussed directing DNC-linked contributions to Carey.

"The circumstances of the shootings in Kabwe, 140 km. north of the capital Lusaka, were unclear.

Witnesses claimed police fired tear-gas at the headquarters of Kaunda's party as he arrived with another party official and Chongwe. They said the men fled in a vehicle and police riddled it with bullets.

Kaunda, who ruled Zambia from 1964 until 1991, has called for a nationwide civil disobedience campaign to force reversal of constitutional amendments blocking his comeback attempt.

Working for Hamilton in the Teamsters DRIVE operation, Dougher noted last month: "I raised money for Carey



Rains of Calcutta
A mother braves the waterlogged streets of Calcutta yesterday to take her child to school. The city has been inundated by the floods Hooghly river. (AP)

JFK

Continued from Page 1

Among those invited were Michael Collins Piper of Washington, author of "Final Judgment: The Missing Link in the JFK Assassination Conspiracy."

Piper posits that the Mossad plotted the assassination. The reason, he asserts in his book, is that then Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and Kennedy were involved in a heated dispute over Kennedy's refusal to support Israel's drive to build a nuclear weapon.

The ADL's Greenspan, speaking at the board meeting, described Piper as a regular contributor to "Spotlight," a notorious antisemitic weekly, and a Holocaust denier.

Other stated panelists were: Sherman Skolnick, a self-described Orthodox Jew from Chicago, who has been pronouncing a link between "rogue Mossad agents," the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, and the apparent suicide of White House counselor

Vincent Foster. Skolnick, also an occasional "Spotlight" contributor, denied later that he had agreed to speak at the seminar.

Talk show host Dave Emory, who contends that top Nazis, who fled Germany after their defeat, played a leading role in Kennedy's assassination. Emory and Piper frequently tangle at JFK conspiracy seminars around the country.

John Judge, He, like New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison (hero of the Oliver Stone film "JFK"), maintains that the Kennedy assassination was the work of a cabal of homosexuals and the military-industrial complex.

Serious researchers of the Kennedy era reacted with incredulity and amusement to the choice of panelists.

"You couldn't find...more embarrassing conspiracists in America. Even among conspiracy theorists, these people represent the outer limit," one Kennedy analyst, Chip Berlet said. Faculty members of Saddleback Community College, a two-year

public institution in Mission Viejo, protested the seminar which was planned for their campus.

A public outcry followed a front-page report in the Los Angeles Times about the seminar. Within hours college offices were deluged with a tirade of some 200 angry phone calls. The ADL also logged a number of protest calls.

Froge announced that he was canceling the seminar, but said he would try to hold it at another time under a different venue.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which frequently intervenes in perceived free speech violations, did not receive any calls regarding the seminar and does not plan any action, a spokeswoman said.

Jewish groups were more concerned than satisfied in the wake of the seminar's cancellation. The ADL's Greenspan, said that while she appreciated the general community's reaction, she was bothered that the college board "still doesn't see this racist seminar as their problem." She also warned that if the seminar were held under private auspices, it

would lack public scrutiny and "bring the crazies out of the woodwork."

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and an expert on hate propaganda in cyberspace, said that "the Mossad conspiracy theory may be laughable to us, but I can guarantee that in a short time it will become part of the folklore of hundreds of websites on the Internet."

"The seminar cancellation is only a temporary setback," Cooper continued. "They got what they wanted by getting into the mainstream press. They don't need to prove that Israelis had a hand in assassinating JFK, they just have to plant the seed of suspicion that it might have been that way."

In assessing the role of the college district in authorizing the seminar, Cooper said: "The situation somewhat parallels the growing practice of the mainstream press to descend to tabloid journalism. What we're getting here is a form of tabloid academia."

In Turkmenistan, luxury hotels sit empty

By GREG MYRE

ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan (AP) - Soon after independence came to this remote, impoverished land in 1991, President Saparmurat Niyazov had a vision: We will build hotels, and the world will come to us.

Twenty-five luxury hotels now stand in one long row, silent citadels on the capital's southern flank, overlooking camels that graze amid the scorched sands of the Karkum Desert. They have boompwn names such as Black Gold and Railway Worker. They boast sparkling swimming pools, Turkish saunas, and luxury suites that have housed the likes of Britain's Prince Charles.

There have everything, it would seem, but guests.

Anticipating an oil and gas bonanza that would attract legions of foreign businessmen, the hotels initially priced their rooms at \$250 a night and up. Now they go begging for as little as \$50, a fact that would surprise no one who has walked the sleepy, sun-baked streets of the capital.

These rarely visited hotels symbolize the unfulfilled dream of Niyazov, who thought he could turn his desert nation into a second Kuwait overnight.

During a three-day visit to the five-star Gara Altin, no more than four of its 18 rooms were ever occupied, and most of the competition was doing worse. Meals in the hotel's well-appointed restaurant - as big as a basketball court - were almost always a private experience. Service was

excellent - once you poked your head inside the kitchen door to alert the staff that a diner was present.

Why did Turkmenistan, one of the most isolated outposts in the former Soviet Union, go on a hotel-building binge? Niyazov had expected the oil and gas revenues to flow freely.

Shortly after independence, he decreed that each government ministry should have its own hotel to house visitors. A new airport was built - easily the most modern in the former Soviet Union - at a cost of \$80 million. The government paid for the hotels - with total costs estimated at more than \$200 million, according to published reports.

But the flood of travelers never

materialized and it quickly became clear that the government had been overly optimistic. The hotels now are managed by private contractors, though the government retains ownership. The hotels are small - just 10 to 20 rooms each - but boast a full range of amenities.

"We have everything," said Novruz Amanurdyev, manager of the Demyr Yolcy, which has 12 rooms, and on this day, only two guests. "You are welcome any time," he said. "We will always keep a room for you."

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Former Zambian president shot

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) - Former President Kenneth Kaunda was shot yesterday during a police crackdown on opposition supporters preparing to attend a rally he was to address, officials said.

Kaunda, head of the opposition United National Independence Party, was not seriously injured, officials at Kabwe General Hospital told The Associated Press. However, Roger Chongwe, leader of the Liberal Progressive Front, an ally of Kaunda's party, underwent surgery after being shot in the neck.

The circumstances of the shootings in Kabwe, 140 km. north of the capital Lusaka, were unclear.

Witnesses claimed police fired tear-gas at the headquarters of Kaunda's party as he arrived with another party official and Chongwe. They said the men fled in a vehicle and police riddled it with bullets.

Kaunda, who ruled Zambia from 1964 until 1991, has called for a nationwide civil disobedience campaign to force reversal of constitutional amendments blocking his comeback attempt.

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The frail humanity of Mir

The novelist William Gibson said in a recent interview that the best science fiction of the 1990s is on CNN news. Gibson and Bruce Sterling wrote a story in the 1980s called *Red Star, Winter Orbit*, set in a dilapidated Soviet space station slowly falling apart. As usual, the science-fiction writers, the real prophets of our age, were ahead of the launch of Mir, as well as of its current decay. Yet Gibson admitted it would have been hard for him "to beat that garbage-module slamming into Mir! ... Looking back, I can see that we didn't go nearly far enough [in the *Red Star* story]."

The Mir space station's crew has been battling for months against a relentless procession of near disasters — the collision with the cargo ship, a fire, computer crashes, failed oxygen generators, a leaking space suit. The crash ruptured the Spektr, the newest (and mostly American-built) station module. This weekend the Russian cosmonauts and British-American astronaut on board began the dangerous and strenuous repairs needed to bring the wrecked orbiter back to usefulness.

Even as the space-walkers were climbing into their suits, Russian President Boris Yeltsin went on state radio for his weekly address to scold his fellow Russians for their lack of interest in the space drama being enacted over their heads. He could have been chiding the whole civilized world, which is perceived as lacking in enthusiasm for the pioneering efforts of our first humans stepping into what undoubtedly is destined to be the far future of our race.

However, it could be argued that it is the inevitable fate of pioneers (like prophets) to be disregarded in their own time as well as in their own lands. Yeltsin, in what was a remarkably fine and thoughtful address, may be right in saying we have become indifferent and weary of the fanfare, ceremony and applause and have decided earthly problems are closer to us. Yet one could also say Yeltsin's chiding would be the equivalent of Queen Isabella scolding the Spanish for failing to get excited about the voyage of Christopher Columbus. The ultimate direction and value of pioneering ventures can only be appreciated with hindsight.

The mass of people are human in every sense of the word — self absorbed with the mundane problems of life and disinclined to raise their eyes to distant horizons. But whatever the current mood of the Russian public addressed by Yeltsin, the case is not proven that people in general are bored by space travel. Millions of visits to Mars Internet sites were recorded

within days of the Mars Explorer mission that landed on July 4, and they are still crowded with hundreds of thousands of people obviously hungry for detailed information. It may be the conventional media that is to blame for much of the apparent disinterest — the banal world of television infotainment has become so infuriatingly superficial that even major news stories are seriously lacking in serious content. CNN deserved great credit for its fine Mars coverage — but it was virtually alone. The effort of the supposedly great BBC was trite and condescending.

Whatever the reality of public interest levels, in one important thing Yeltsin is absolutely right: Since public support must be translated into political and commercial power, it is vital that there is enough of such support to keep the Russian space program going. Indeed it is not a propaganda show. It is, as Yeltsin said, one of his country's great responsibilities, since the status of the aerospace sector still in large measure defines the international status of Russia. In the broader picture, that status of Russia is important for the rest of the world. We should be grateful that the end of the Cold War has at last brought closer the impossible dream that as mankind ventures into space it does so through international cooperation, not as representatives of squabbling planetary tribes exporting their petty divisions to future colonies.

Budget cuts and economic problems may have forced the Russian space program to scrape along. Most of the equipment on Mir is already run into the ground — its main computer is the equivalent of a 12-year-old desktop most home-computer users would have thrown out by now. The space program tries to raise cash by selling trips to foreign astronauts and running TV commercials aboard Mir. (The Thruva dairy deserves a pat on the back for its enterprise and imagination in being one of the first to take advantage of Mir's commercial side with its *Milk in Space* commercial, aired here on Friday.)

Mir may have become the butt of jokes by stand-up comics but it is its faults and failings that have humanized the somewhat sterile image of space exploration. Space is not yet the triumph of the machines, it is the triumph of man's dogged determination to beat evolution at its own game of progress. Not since the Apollo 13 astronauts ferried home a wrecked moonship 20 years ago have we had such a clear message that space is being won by human courage, ingenuity, and good luck, and that it will not be lost by mere human frailty, error and misfortune.



Probing Swiss wartime history

ALFRED DEFAGO

I was not born yet when Adolf Hitler unleashed World War II. Like many Swiss of my generation, I grew up believing that neutral Switzerland — completely surrounded by the Nazis and their satellites — had heroically survived the war under extremely difficult circumstances.

This image, of course, has begun to falter. In Switzerland itself, a probing discussion began almost 20 years ago over whether our small, neutral state had behaved in an exemplary manner before, during and after the war. Over the last year, this quiet discussion has been transformed into a heated international debate. Fierce and pointed criticism has been directed toward Switzerland's wartime record. As the representative of the Swiss government and its people in the United States, I believe it is important not to shrink from the growing controversy over Switzerland's role during World War II.

The time has come for an open, searching debate. But it is also critical that this discussion be fair, reasoned and based on all the facts.

I would like to be clear about one point: Switzerland — as did others, including the United States — turned back thousands of Jews at its border on the grounds that "the boat was full." Moreover, a senior Swiss official encouraged Germany to use the infamous "J" stamp on the German passports of Jewish citizens. We have to acknowledge these sad facts.

Kaspar Villiger, president of the Swiss Confederation in 1995, publicly apologized for Switzerland's serious negligence in refugee policy during the war. In addition, the Swiss National Bank's gold policy during these years was anything but a study in glory. At that time, the senior managers of the bank clearly did not know that the gold they purchased from the German Reichsbank also contained smelted "victims' gold," but in the last years of the war, they surely must have known that the Germans increasingly delivered gold that came from the looted stocks of central banks in occupied countries.

The Swiss of today cannot be

proud of these failings. But dwelling on these events alone presents a one-sided picture of the Swiss record.

History also records many positive actions by my country. The Switzerland of those years — despite the compromises with Nazi Germany and its satellites — was a country that defied its free and democratic system under the most difficult circumstances. Here was a small country in the heart of Europe that protected free speech and insist-

Switzerland — like many other nations — made mistakes during the wartime period, including turning back thousands of Jews

ed on the right to hold free and open elections. And in these elections, the Nazis and their few Swiss sympathizers never stood a ghost of a chance.

Although Switzerland refused entry to approximately 30,000 Jews (and thus probably subjected many to brutal persecution) it should not be forgotten that Switzerland admitted more than 230,000 refugees from Nazism during the war, including 27,000 Jews. Those Jewish refugees, together with the 20,000 indigenous Swiss Jews, escaped the Holocaust. This was the only Central European Jewish community to survive the war.

It has now become fashionable to argue that Switzerland's wartime neutrality was opportunistic and even morally reprehensible. But the Swiss policy of neutrality did not emerge in the face of the Nazi threat. It was centuries old. In the final analysis, however, it is not primarily a question of what Switzerland and other countries did or did not do in the 1940s that matters, but how these nations come to terms with their past.

It took a while for Switzerland to realize the magnitude of the problem, which had been con-

cealed by the stakes of the Cold War. Once it became clear that the darker side of our past had to be revisited, unprecedented steps were initiated and acted upon as fast as Swiss institutions and customs permitted. The US official most heavily engaged in this issue, Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, has stated that "among the neutral countries, Switzerland has taken the lead" in coming to grips with its past.

The Swiss government is sparing no effort to ensure that any assets in Swiss banks belonging to victims of the Holocaust be returned to survivors, their heirs or to organizations representing the survivors of the Nazi atrocities.

The Swiss government has established a \$100 million humanitarian fund, drawing on contributions from the Swiss banks and private industry. The fund will be bolstered by another \$70 million from the Swiss National Bank later this year, if the Swiss Parliament approves.

My government has proposed the daring idea of a "Swiss Foundation for Solidarity." This foundation would dedicate its annual income — the equivalent of several hundred millions of dollars — to assist victims of poverty, injustice, genocide and human rights violations. These plagues tragically belong to our era as much as to the past.

This innovative and far-reaching proposal will go before the Swiss people in a referendum at a later date. It should be clear then, that the people of Switzerland are committed to the profoundly important task of coming to terms with their past, even though there may be some debate on how best to draw conclusions and make amends. We know that others are interested in our progress, particularly the Jewish community in many countries.

The Swiss are a deliberate and prudent people. But once we have made up our minds to do something, you can rely on us. In the task now before us, I have not the slightest doubt that Switzerland will respond in a thorough and serious manner.

The writer has been Switzerland's ambassador to the United States since April. © The Washington Post

Spiritual soul

DAVID NEWMAN

The struggle for recognition by the Reform and Conservative movements in Israel seems to be gaining momentum. The past two weeks have seen heightened emotions surrounding the High Court ruling in favor of a member of the local reform community taking her place on the Netanya Religious Council, followed by the violent scenes at the Western wall on the Eve of Tisha Be'iv, when members of the Conservative movement attempted to hold a mixed prayer session.

But despite these attempts to highlight their fight for recognition, there does not appear to be widespread public support for their cause. Government ministers may be opposed to amending the conversion law, probably because of the pressure being exerted by the North American Jewish community, but that does not mean they are prepared to grant freedom of worship or status within Israel's sensitive world of religious politics.

Whether one agrees with their religious ideology or not, it is easy to understand why the Orthodox community totally oppose any form of recognition for movements which, in its eyes, are an antithesis to an unchanging and "authentic" form of traditional observance, the one and only religious truth.

But what is much more surprising is the lack of widespread support afforded the Reform and Conservative movements from secular Israel. Excepting a few token declarations by political leaders — usually for the purpose of political rather than spiritual gain — the majority of Israel's non-religious population has shown little sympathy for the struggle for religious pluralism.

Is it perhaps that secular Israel fears these movements as much as the Orthodox world fears them? The legitimization of alternative forms of religious identification, something which imparts a politics of meaning for the tens of thousands who are turned off by, or who have no interest in, Orthodox Judaism, would pose an

Perhaps secular Israel fears the Reform and Conservative movements as much as the Orthodox world fears them

intellectual struggle for many. While the current level of polarization often means that the secular would never even consider becoming part of the Orthodox (the pentitent movement is numerically marginal and is matched by a less-publicized, but equal, flow in the opposite direction), an alternative — middle of the road — form of religion may require the making of a commitment which most prefer to avoid.

It would be nice to assume that the political support afforded by Meretz for the struggle of the Conservative and Reform movements was altruistic, that they sought some form of identification over and beyond the demand for pluralism and equality within a secular democracy.

But the fact that a political party which is perceived as being anti-religious is their main institutional supporter does not do much to help the cause of movements for whom religion, however interpreted or practiced, is central to their belief systems.

Another factor contributing to the relative lack of public support is the fact that the Reform and Conservative milieux belong exclusively to the North American and Ashkenazi cultural environment. The half of the country's Jewish population which is not Ashkenazi has displayed little interest in these alternative forms of religious practice. The middle ground has not been vacated to the same extent that has occurred amongst the Ashkenazi population and, as such, does not appear to have a void waiting to be filled.

THE Reform and Conservative movements have also failed to understand one of the most basic rules underlying their struggle. In contrast to the Orthodox world, their members have largely failed to answer the call to be part of an Israel in which political power is a function of the number of people who support your cause. For as long as this continues to be the case, the Reform and Conservative movements are unlikely to make anything but a minimal impact on the struggle for Israel's spiritual soul.

The writer is Professor of Political Geography and Director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANKS

Sir, — As we end our initial period of mourning, we express our regret that inaccuracies that appeared in media accounts of our son's burial cast aspersions on a number of good people.

We wish to make it clear that at all stages of our ordeal, the representatives of the Greek Orthodox Church and the representatives of the Rabbinat related to us with sensitivity and respect.

We thank the Jerusalem representatives of Bahai International

MINORITY POSITION

Sir, — Pity to the vast majority of world Jewry, if the likes of Jonathan Rosenblum ("Let everyone be happy," July 18) get their way! His minority position makes it so very clear that he is convinced beyond any, and all, reasoning that his heredi ideas are fixed in stone, irrevocable, immovable and giveo by the hand of God. He paints such an ogly picture of all non-Orthodox parties as to make clear his hate and derision of any besides his own, particularly of the Reform movement. His single-minded attempt to destroy that movement's value in Jewish life totally disqualifies him and his cohorts as an arbiter of anything Jewish, outwithstanding all of his references to the Torah and Midrash, and his efforts to dictate Jewish thinking. It must so comforting to think one has the answers to everything.

IVGENY PESACHOVITCH AND OLGA POLLACK (Parents of Grisha Pesachovitch)

Jerusalem.

MUTUAL RESPECT

Sir, — I want to congratulate Moshe Kohn on his excellent column, which I read regularly, and in particular the one of July 11 in which he identifies Israel's greatest obstacle to future growth and success.

Israel will not achieve greatness economically, politically nor culturally unless Israelis learn to get along and respect each other. In a true democracy, which Israel claims to be, all citizens must be equally respected

and accepted whether they are secular, heredi, Orthodox, Ashkenazi, Sephardi, Arab, Christian or whatever. The vile language and extreme attitudes people use to express a disagreement or dislike of someone can only serve to weaken the country and delay its success as member of the world community.

ABE M. GINDI (San Jose, California.)

DR. H. ZIGERMAN (Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.)

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On August 24, 1937, The Palestine Post reported that the Permanent Commission of the League of Nations in Geneva had published a summary of its report on Palestine. The Commission wrote that the disturbances of 1936 revealed a great political tension and therefore it was worth examining all the advantages and drawbacks of Lord Peel's Royal Commission on Palestine suggestions for Partition, a new territorial solution.

The Commission considered cantonization under which two new states would be formed, each to have a large measure of internal economy and full powers to regulate immigration, while a central controlling government would deal with such measures as

defence, foreign affairs and customs.

The founding stone was laid of the first house in Tel Aviv's new workers' quarters, to be constructed along the Yarkon River.

50 years ago: On August 24, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that Britain had asked France to receive the 4,400 Exodus 1947 refugees who would be sent there by train via the British Zone of Germany. The three British floating cages sailed from Port de Bouc for Hamburg, after the "illegal" immigrants to Palestine had refused to land voluntarily in France. The Zionist flags fluttered from the harbed-wired cages.

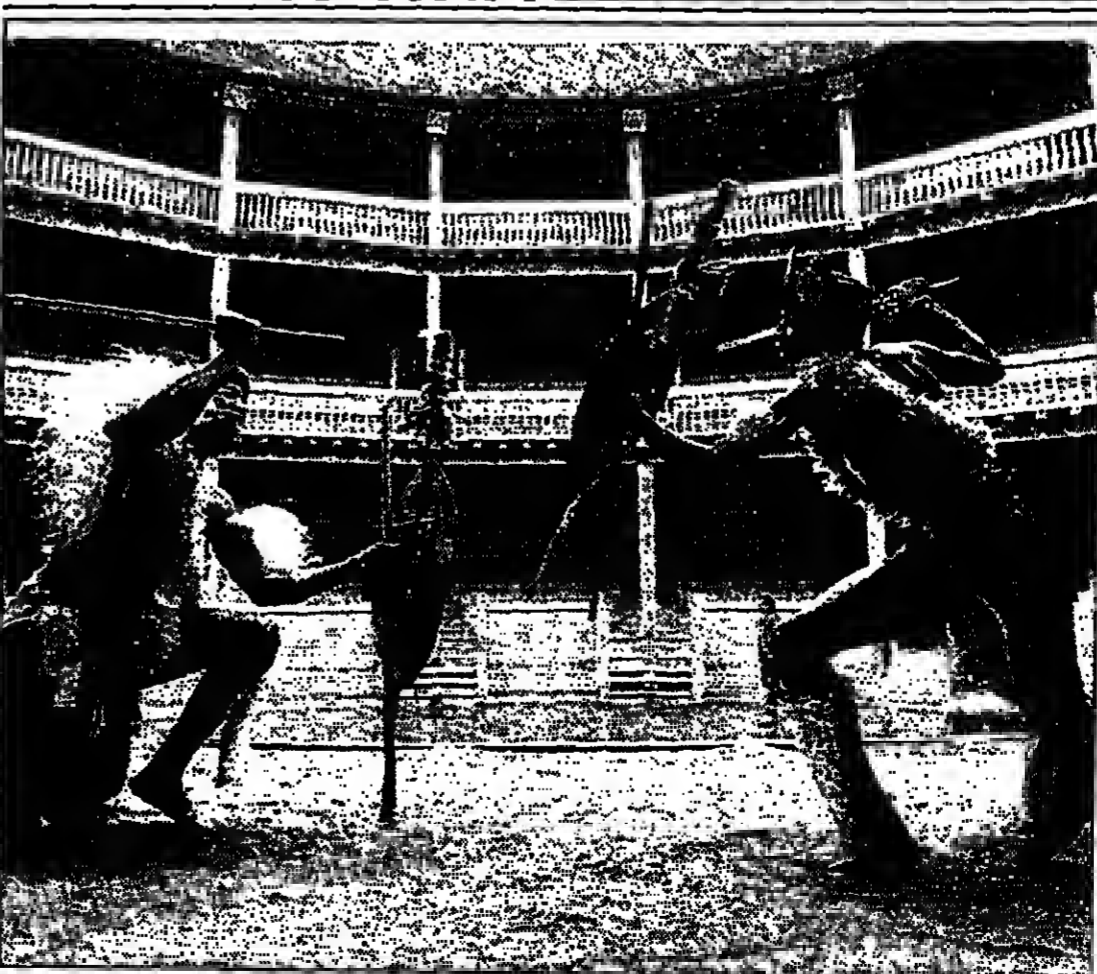
An acalyptus grove was cut down near Netanya after a mine

exploded under a military vehicle there. Shops were damaged in Princess Mary Avenue and Jaffa Road in Jerusalem after police opened indiscriminate fire from their positions atop the Generali Building.

25 years ago: On August 24, 1972, The Jerusalem Post reported that the Knesset had unanimously adopted a resolution denouncing the new Soviet tax imposed on Jewish professionals requesting emigration. In Moscow Jewish biologist Ilya Glazer, labeled a "moral degenerate" by Soviet media, began a three-year sentence in the Gulag for writing letters which "slandered the Soviet Union."

Alexander Zviell

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



South African actors from the 'Umsbatha: the Zulu Macbeth' production perform a mock fight at the Shakespeare's Globe Theatre July 31. The play performed entirely in Zulu will be in London for one week.

(Reuters)

Spirit of Soul

EARTHLY CONCERNS

DAVID NEWMAN

... of us... into... and, us to... for... e are... and... yers... hen... ear... s so... who... mi... God... title... ork... the... cws... me... fer... nen... wir... the... im... to... of... h... the... cri... en... is... re... ire... in... rs... and... im... by... id-... en... rs... by... is... rs... in... es... d-... is... r... s... in... ce... o... II



Many mainland Ecuadorians have migrated to the Galapagos Islands in search of tourism income. But the increased population is threatening the wildlife that draws tourists. (Eliza Orbach)



It was the old Spanish word for tortoise - galapago - that gave the islands their name. This giant tortoise weighed in at 100 kg! (Eliza Orbach)

The Galapagos: survival of the species

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

Legislation aimed at the protection of the Galapagos Islands, now up for consideration, has a rather slim chance of being passed. While some conservationists are hopeful that, if enacted, these laws may save what remains of the Galapagos, an even larger number feel that even if they could pass, it is simply a matter of too little, much too late. Ask most people where the Galapagos Islands are, and they will probably not know. They have heard of them, they even know that they are somehow important, but they aren't sure

just why. They may also have no idea which country controls them. Yet these islands have an important place in history and in present-day efforts to preserve a number of species that are unique to these islands, and to maintain what is left of a very special biotope. The Galapagos Islands lie off the coast of South America. It was here, a century and a half ago, that Charles Darwin, during his famed voyage, outlined his theory of evolution, the differentiation of species, and all that ensued. Today, the unique wildlife of the Galapagos Islands is teetering on the edge of extinction, and

environmental experts fear it may already be too late to save it. Some predict the extinction of a number of species within the next quarter of a century. The Galapagos Islands are a province of Ecuador, and that is a critical part of the problem. Since tourism, specifically eco-tourism, is the single factor that has boosted the income of the islands' residents to several times higher than that of average Ecuadorians, many people from the mainland have migrated to the islands. There is nothing to prevent this, since it is a legal internal migration. However, over the past 12 years, an average of three people a day have chosen to

move to the islands. This has resulted in an increase in population of over 10,000, mostly young couples with growing families. This represents a total increase of 50,000. The Galapagos are small islands and, for a time, the standard of living for the 5,000 to 7,000 people living there was high. This was largely due to the income generated by eco-tourism and regular employment in nature conservation. But the influx of an additional 50,000 people, with more arriving every day, is destroying the basic infrastructure that originally made these islands such an attractive place to live.

What's more, Ecuadorians do not generally have much regard for environmental laws. Most Ecuadorians consider them to be arbitrary rulings by a government that they traditionally feel wants to limit their personal freedom. As more Ecuadorians pour into the islands, more land is needed for housing, for shops and for infrastructure. There is now serious competition between the land needed for the precious wildlife and the land needed by those who have come to the islands to benefit from its allure. But few settlers are willing to discuss the fact that they are, so to speak, "killing the goose that lays the golden eggs." They feel

that they are entitled to a share in whatever the islands can offer, and considerations of what will happen when there is no longer anything to bring the tourists to the islands are not taken into account. Although the Ecuadorian government has passed, stringent fishing laws aimed at saving the disappearing sea cucumber - a marine animal considered a delicacy throughout Asia - no hunting, fishing or other environmental laws can stand up against the real problem - migration to the islands. Yet this is the most difficult of all the problems they must solve. To prohibit further migration would be tantamount to, let's say, the United States declaring a ban on internal migration of American citizens from one state to another. And, in light of a history of repressive laws that once held sway in Ecuador, its citizens are, extremely, sensitive to any infringement of their rights. It may turn out that, as so many conservationists already suspect, the Ecuadorian government has begun to deal with educational programs and island protection laws a few decades too late. If this is true, the Galapagos and all they represent will end up no more than an enigmatic footnote to a chapter of the earth's turbulent environmental history.

Water taxis out of their depth

By THOMAS J. LUECK

It was an idea whose time had come: with visitors flocking to Battery Park, Chelsea piers, and other Manhattan shoreline attractions, why not offer something offbeat - even a little romantic - like bright little water taxis, a touch of Venice on the Hudson? So it seemed in June when a prominent environmental advocate, Tom Fox, the former president of the Hudson River Park Conservancy, founded New York Water Taxi. His fledgling fleet of three boxy boats, painted yellow with checkerboard patterns reminiscent of Checker cabs, would putt-putt from the Fulton Ferry landing in Brooklyn to the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. It would make light other stops along the way, bringing people into intimate contact with New York City's marine environment, all for about \$20. News of the venture spread widely, with features appearing in the Times of London and on Japanese prime-time television. Within a very short time, more than 8,000 people, including an unexpectedly large group of commuters, had tried out the New York Water Taxi experience. But now, its much-hyped opening season foreshortened by three months, Fox's boats are docked just north of Liberty State Park, in New Jersey. In the end, they were the little water taxis that couldn't. "The currents are too strong, and these boats are just too slow," said Fox, who is trying to raise more than \$1.5 million for new boats that would be sleeker, more powerful and therefore less quaint-looking. "Some people did find it romantic, sort of like riding The African Queen," he said. "But this is New York and most

people can't be expected to just hang out, waiting at the dock." So goes a cautionary tale of idealism run aground on business judgment, and of an apparently incontrovertible law of nature: Thou shalt not challenge the might of the New York Harbor with cute putt-putts intended for the Florida stretch of the Intercoastal Waterway. "I thought, maybe, after all these years, I had found a way to do well by doing good," said Fox, who spent 25 years in the forefront of the battles against development schemes for the waterfront. His decision to become a maritime entrepreneur shocked some former allies. ... why not offer something offbeat - even a little romantic - like bright little water taxis, a touch of Venice on the Hudson? Business people who watched Fox's venture stumble through its inaugural two months say they are confident its problems can be for a restart next June. "A lot of good businesses have false starts," said August J. Ceradini, president of New York Cruise Lines, which provided Fox's taxis with dock space at its Hudson River Pier, at 42nd Street. Fox already has promises of financial help for the bigger boats he hopes to bring into operation

next June. Unlike this year's boats, which were leased, the new ones would be bought by his company. "We think Tom has a very viable business, and we are big boosters," said Howard Summer, president of New York Community Investment Co., a venture capital firm representing 10 large banks. Despite such encouragement, Fox said his first season has been frustrating, particularly because the \$750,000 he had raised was dwindling a little too rapidly. "It just made sense to declare the first two months a success and start over," he said. Fox said he had studied successful water taxi operations on Fire Island, in Baltimore, and in Seattle before negotiating a contract to lease the three boats, which had been designed for the placid waters of the Intercoastal Waterway by a Fort Lauderdale company. The water taxis would return to Florida during the winter, migrating like sperm whales, thus requiring lease payments for half the year. And the boats suited Fox's business plan, since the builder said that they were capable of 25 knots, fast enough for the three to provide service every 20 minutes at each of the 10 stops on the circuit. But apparently no one anticipated the navigational hardships imposed by the New York Harbor, where much larger vessels strain against powerful currents and are battered in the wakes of tankers and cruise ships. It quickly became apparent that the water taxis from Florida would travel at scarcely 10 knots, creating long delays at the docks. "It is obvious that we have captured people's imaginations," said Fox. "Now it is just a matter of getting the system to work the way it's supposed to." (AP)

Cuba offers a holiday to children fleeing volcano

Some 50 children from Montserrat who suffered from stress amid recent volcanic eruptions on the Caribbean island arrived in Cuba last week for a holiday to help them recover from the experience. "I want to play basketball, relax and meet people," Christopher Featon, a teen-ager who described the situation back home as a disaster told reporters at Havana airport. The children, aged 10-16, were ferried in buses for their three-week stay at the beach camp of Tarara, east of the capital. Montserrat, a British colony in the eastern Caribbean, has been hit

in the last six weeks by eruptions from the Soufriere Hills volcano that has been active since 1995. The eruptions have forced repeated evacuations to the safe northern area of the island and the capital has been almost completely destroyed. The children's trip is being organized by the Cuban Red Cross and other local authorities and funding has come from Red Cross groups in the Netherlands, Spain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Britain. Tarara, a children's holiday camp, has been used in recent years to provide care for some

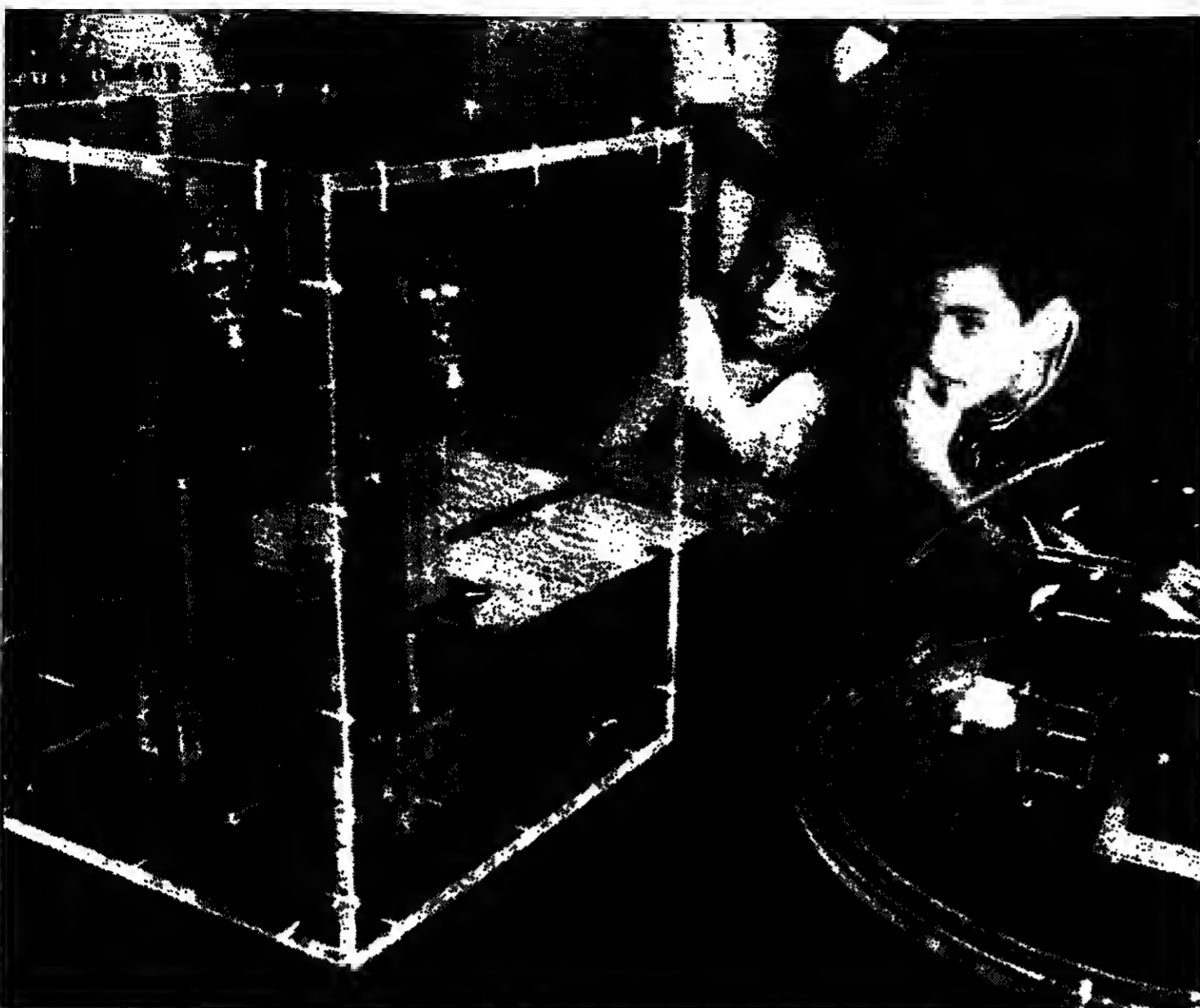
11,000 children affected by the disaster at Chernobyl in 1986. (Reuters)

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The Bloomfield Science Museum's current exhibition offers a hands-on lesson in how electricity works.

(Shimi Nachtraier)

Sparks of invention at electricity exhibition

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

More than a century has passed since Edison's incandescent bulb began to illuminate man's way. But electricity itself was never "invented." The passing of electrons that constitutes an electrical current exists all around us — in our brains and nerves, between the sky and the earth and among chemical elements.

The Hebrew word *hashmal* even appears in the Bible (Ezekiel 1:4): "And I looked, and behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, a great cloud, with a fire flashing up so that a brightness was round about it and out of the midst thereof as the color of electrum, out of the midst of the fire." But the prophet was undoubtedly speaking of a different phenomenon than that encountered by Benjamin Franklin while experimenting with his kite.

The mysteries of the invisible power of electricity are presented at the Bloomfield Science Museum's current exhibition, "In Light of Electricity." Taking up one floor of the Jerusalem museum, it is comprised of 40 exhibits, many of them unusual and built by museum staffers. As in all of Bloomfield's presentations, it's a hands-on exhibit that invites children and adults to push buttons, move objects and use all their senses to understand the principles of science.

The effort was coordinated by Dr. Amir Ben-Shalom, director of exhibitions at the museum and an electrical engineer, who was described at last month's open-

log as being "crazy about electricity." The Israel Electric Corporation — what could be more natural — was one of the sponsors of the exhibition, and help was also received from Tadiran and from the German company Siemens (which even sent a senior official to the event).

IT'S HARD to imagine our world without electricity, but major power failures give some inkling of what it would be like. The light bulbs, refrigerator, washing machine, computer, clocks, stereo, fax and many household goods are powered with electricity. Most of the items in daily use are produced with the help of electricity. Although fueled by gasoline, cars won't go without the electrical systems in them. Even human bodies speak in the "language" of electricity: Electrons transmit messages from the sensory organs — skin, eyes, ears, mouth and nose — to specific parts of the brain and from the brain to the muscles.

The exhibition includes a large graphic diagram with the history of electricity, from 500 BCE, when Thales in ancient Greece rubbed amber on a piece of fur and created a spark. A feather was attracted to the amber as if it were a magnet.

Jumping to 1600 CE, one sees the Englishman William Gilbert, who wrote a book about magnetism and claimed the Earth behaves like a giant magnet. More than 150 years later, inventor Benjamin Franklin of Philadelphia discovered that lightning is the release of electri-

cal energy. In 1800, an Italian named Alessandro Volta invented the electric battery; in 1822, the Frenchman André Ampere discovered the principles of electric current.

Later in the 19th century, the first transformer was built, Samuel Morse launched the telegraph and Alexander Graham Bell unveiled his telephone. Theo, in 1882, Thomas Edison set up 200 incandescent bulbs at the New York Exposition, signaling the end of gaslight.

THE NOW-waning 20th century, of course, has brought an explosion in the use of electricity, with the first electric typewriter in 1901, the first electric vacuum cleaner in 1908, the first neon sign in 1912, the first electric refrigerator in 1913, the first color TV in 1938, and the microwave oven and transistor in 1947.

Photographs and models of some of these inventions are on display, but most of the exhibits show scientific principles instead. There is an aquarium with fish, which emit electrical signals five to 10 times per second that can be picked up with an attached microphone. If the water is polluted, the rate of the signals changes; the IEC uses this as an early-warning system for pollution in certain bodies of water.

Another item explains the color spectrum of the incandescent bulb and the connection between color and temperature. The color spectrum released by such a bulb is continuous, and the spectrum seems to move in the direction of violet as the tem-

perature rises.

Three identical incandescent bulbs are placed one on top of the other in front of a black backdrop. The top bulb is operated at maximum output and emits white light; the middle one is activated by a museum visitor pushing a dimmer and changing the output from minimal to maximal. The lower bulb functions at minimal output, so that the temperature is relatively low and the light it emits is mainly red. The positioning of the bulbs enables an immediate comparison of the relative strengths of the colors emitted by each bulb.

Another exhibit illustrates how the incandescent bulb really works (its filament, heated by electricity, emits light). In another exhibit, the efficiency of these is compared with that of fluorescent bulbs using the same amount of current.

The IEC has an interesting display that explains everything one would want to know about the optical electric grid.

Put your hands on various palm-shaped pieces of metal and see how your body carries electricity from one to the other. Understand the principles behind electrical circuits by linking together various pieces of metal and wire. Turn a crank to twist a magnet between blocks covered with copper wire to produce electricity and make a bulb light up.

The exhibition is a good example of welcome cooperation between industry and public educational institutions in explaining scientific principles to young people as well as their uninitiated elders.

DISK-COVERY

Story of survival

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Return to Life, a CD-ROM in English for all ages, by Yad Vashem, produced by Icons in Jerusalem and TES (Torah Educational Software) Jerusalem, which is the worldwide distributor (Internet site: <http://www.jewish-software.com>), \$99 or the shekel equivalent, sold at Yad Vashem, Steimatzky branches, TES shops in Jerusalem and major software stores.

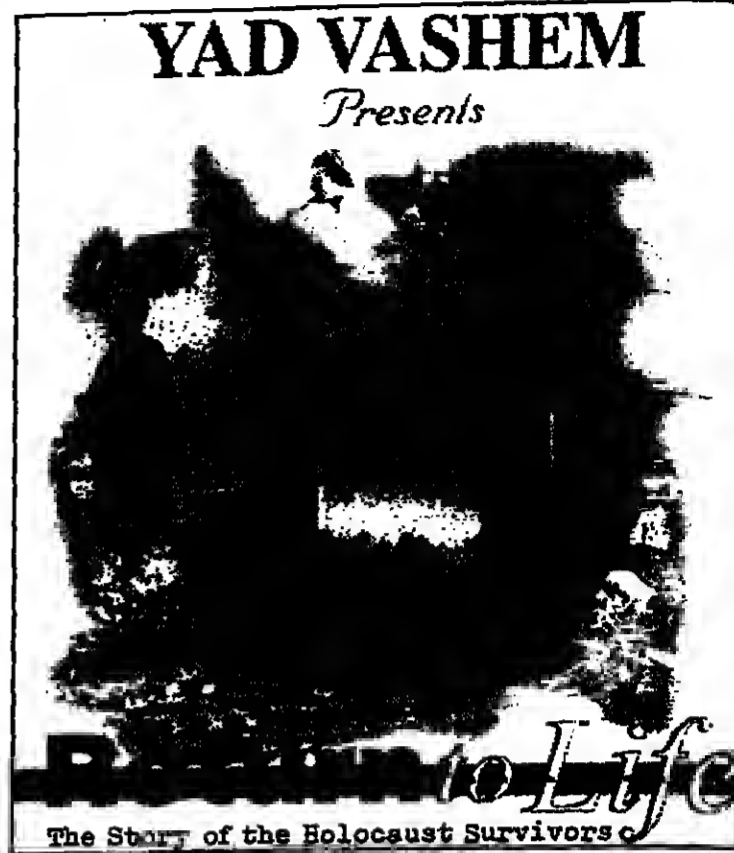
Rating: five stars out of five

Who will tell the story when the last Holocaust survivor in the world dies? This CD-ROM — which in June was awarded the second prize for excellence in multimedia at the International Communications Congress in Biarritz, France — will keep relating the story when witnesses can no longer do so.

The first in a series of multimedia software being produced by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem, this emotion-laden but factual disk tells the story of survivors in Israel and the Diaspora, using filmed testimony, music, text and photographs.

Worth every penny of the \$250,000 it cost to make (much of it donated by Canadian businessman Leslie Dan), it is the culmination of a year of work by Yad Vashem's unit for the development of educational programs, directed by Abraham Milgram and coordinated and produced by Guy Miron. A Hebrew version is out for sale to individuals, but instead is being offered at low cost to schools around the country.

The struggle for survival didn't end with Liberation Day in 1945, the narrator notes. The remnant of the Holocaust had to decide if they wanted to go on, how to reconstruct their lives, which land to go to — and how to cope with the urge for revenge and the realization that the victory over Hitler came too late for most of their family and friends. Once freed, the survivors stood at a crossroads: to the Land



An emotion-laden but factual disk tells the story of survivors in Israel and the Diaspora, using filmed testimony.

of Israel or the US (tens of thousands escaped to other countries, but the bulk ended up in these two).

Video clips of survivors recalling their experiences are presented along with still photos of their youth. Anyone who studies this multimedia program is likely to be moved to tears, but even more so to admire their determination and will to go on living.

There are 39 topics in five major subject areas: New Start, Affirmation of Life, Whither?, Revenge and Loss. Although listening to all the testimony and reading the material will take many hours, the user won't get lost, thanks to a navigation icon that checks the sections already visited.

Other useful tools are a database with a collection of maps (showing, among others, Jewish losses

during the Holocaust, displaced persons camps and "illegal immigration" embarkation ports); a lexicon of terms; and a helpful timeline (showing major events from Hitler's rise to power to 1957, when the last death camp, Fuhrenwald, was shut down). There are also datacards dividing all the multimedia into sounds, movies, pictures and subjects, all immediately accessible. Not only can everything be printed out, but a high-powered word-processing system lets you select text and photographs for your own files and print out edited reports.

If subsequent CD-ROMs in this series are on the same high level as this masterful disk, there is hope that the survivors who gave their testimony and the enormity of the Nazis' crimes will not be forgotten.

TELL ME WHY

Now you see apricots; now you don't

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Why is it that the season in which apricots are available is so short, while that of all other varieties of summer fruit goes on for several months? David, Mo'aleh Adunim

Prof. Amnon Erez, a senior researcher at the Volcani Institute's Institute of Horticulture in the field of deciduous fruit trees, comments:

Prof. Amnon Erez, a senior researcher at the Volcani Institute's Institute of Horticulture in the field of deciduous fruit trees, comments:

The apricot is not the only fruit here with a short season: cherries and loquats (*shekeli* in Hebrew), for example, have short marketing seasons as well. The problem with apricots, which are harvested here from May to July, is that, of all the varieties available abroad, the only ones that have acclimated themselves to this country ripen over a short season. In addition, unfortunately, apricots don't store well: They deteriorate rapidly even in cold storage, unlike apples, pears or other types of fruits. On the other hand, we do, however, have many varieties of

peaches, nectarines and other summer fruits that ripen over many months.

Apricots apparently originated in the mountains between China and Kazakhstan or Uzbekistan. Then they spread to the Carpathian Mountains, North Africa and the Middle East — including Eretz Yisrael during the Roman era some 2,000 years ago, and to Europe via Turkey.

Because of the problem of their acclimatization, we at Volcani Center began a project four years ago to improve the varieties through breeding and to try to extend the production season. In addition, the spread of apricot cultivation to the Golan Heights will extend the season by a month or so. The season could also begin earlier if our efforts to grow apricots in hothouses succeeded. We have brought red, yellow, orange and even white apricots from the US, France and Spain, but this project — which I coordinate — could take a total of 15 years before improved, longer-season varieties are available on the market. We must be very careful when we bring in new varieties to test, as there are viral plant diseases in Europe and Egypt that attack apricots and are

very harmful to the trees.

New brands of cola drinks have come on the market recently. I notice that each of them tastes very different from Coca-Cola. What are the main ingredients in cola, and what makes them taste so different? Shlomo, Eilat

A spokesman for Coca-Cola Israel replies:

The ingredients in Coca-Cola are written on the product water, sugar, carbon dioxide, caramel, food acids, flavoring, aromatic additives and caffeine. The reason the various brands taste different is that the formula of the essence varies. Coca-Cola was invented 111 years ago, and today there are only three people in the world who know the secret formula of its unique essence.

Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer: Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem, fax it to (02) 5389527, or send it by e-mail to juste@post.co.il. Please include your first name and place of residence.

HEALTH SCAN

Can 'pot' help patients?

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

American researchers have recommended marijuana be tested in controlled, scientific studies to see if smoking the weed can help patients with cancer, AIDS and other conditions. An eight-member committee of experts, headed by Dr. William Beaver of the Georgetown University School of Medicine, recently issued its recommendations to the US National Institutes of Health (NIH).

According to AP, the committee urged that scientific study of marijuana's medical value be separated "from the societal debate over the potential harmful effects of non-medical marijuana use."

Meanwhile, our own Health Ministry is taking a cautious approach. It has asked a committee of experts to consider the use of marijuana solely for improving the quality of life of terminal patients. Associate director-general Dr. Boaz Lev said the ministry is not, at present, discussing the possibility of allowing widespread use by patients because the efficacy of the active

ingredients in marijuana must be proven in comparison to existing medications.

The report to the NIH said clear evidence of efficacy is not yet available. Nevertheless, the experts said marijuana should be studied for its effect on improving appetite among patients with severe weight loss; easing nausea and vomiting in cancer patients; controlling some neurological disorders (such as reducing spasticity in multiple sclerosis patients or treating epilepsy); for pain relief; and to treat the eye disease glaucoma.

Administering marijuana with an inhalation device and in controlled dosage lacking the plant's dangerous components can avert possible side effects of smoking it: damage to the lungs and the immune system.

NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus said his agency "is open to receiving grant applications for studies of the medical efficacy of marijuana." Such applications, Varmus said, will undergo "our normal scientific review"; they will be funded if they meet accepted standards and are considered of more value than com-

paring grant applications.

Chuck Thomas of the Marijuana Policy Project, a US group favoring more medical use of the weed, said the report should prompt legislation that would permit such use of the drug now, without waiting for research to satisfy "rigid" federal requirements.

"If we wait, thousands of patients will be arrested and sent to prison in the meantime," he said.

MEN'S SELF-CHECK

The Israel Cancer Association is urging teenage boys and young men up to the age of 40 to check themselves regularly for testicular cancer. This type of tumor is relatively rare, but its incidence is increasing. It can be diagnosed early, making its cure rate as high as 100 percent, and many men can detect the first signs themselves.

A Hebrew-language pamphlet is now being distributed by the ICA (call Telemeida, (03) 571-7888). Two urologists, Prof. Aryeh Lindner of Assaf Harofeh Hospital and Dr. Avishai Sela at the Rabin Medical Center-Bellinson Campus,



NIH researchers recommend that marijuana be studied for its medicinal value in alleviating pain and nausea in cancer patients. (UPI)

offer their advice in the booklet: Every man and boy from the age of 15 should become familiar with the size and consistency of his testicles. They should examine them once a month (in a way similar to women's examination of their breasts).

Hold the scrotum in the palm of the hand and palpate the testicles, each one separately and using delicate pressure. If a testicle is enlarged, or if a lump is detected, go to a urologist as soon as possible, the doctors advise.

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Sampras, Hingis virtually uncontested in US Open

New Arthur Ashe Stadium promises vintage tennis

NEW YORK (AP) - The true inauguration of Arthur Ashe Stadium won't come when the first ball is struck tomorrow at the US Open or even when past champions solemnly pay homage to Ashe in the formal dedication that night.

Rather, it will be that moment in the tournament, perhaps on some sultry afternoon or balmy evening, when the full-throated roars of the largest crowd to tennis vibrate through the new steel and brick arena and shake two players standing on the sage green court.

One of those players may be Pete Sampras, the four-time champion who has a knack for dramatics at this tournament that belies his laid-back, off-court demeanor. Or perhaps one of them will be Martina Hingis, the 16-year-old with the sweet smile and killer strokes who, like Sampras, is going for her third Grand Slam title of the year.

Or, just as likely, the roars will be for some low-ranked underdog seeking it to a high seed with brilliant and unexpected shots.

At that moment - and it happens every year at some point in the US Open - the 22,547-seat Arthur Ashe Stadium, with its rim rising against the Manhattan skyline across the river, will become as loud and wild and crazy as New York gets. Just as it was intended.

The US Open is the raucous, sometimes obnoxious cousin of Wimbledon and the French and Australian Opens. Jets rattle the seats, fans walk around whenever they want, no matter the score, and sandwiches cost more than an ounce or two of silver.

What the US Open has lacked in classiness since it moved from Forest Hills two decades ago, it has made up for in noise and chaos and a uniquely New York energy. Now, with the opening of Arthur Ashe Stadium as the centerpiece of a \$254 million, privately funded renovation, the USTA is hoping to achieve some of the aesthetic appeal that has long been missing.

The new place is bigger yet more intimate because of the slope of the seats, and the acoustics of all that steel will make the roars all the more deafening.

"I kind of miss the old stadium - that's where I made my mark in '90 - but the new stadium is going to be a pleasure to play in," Sampras said after testing the court.

Sampras likes the spacious new inlaid wooden lockers, the large players lounge, the easy access to the court. Fans will appreciate the wider walkways between outside courts, the more comfortable seats, the extra toilets, the new landscaping, and the lovely lane that links the tennis center with the majestic Unisphere and fountains of the 1964 World's Fair.

The architectural design of the new stadium - a jumble of retro '20s and postmodern '90s - will be an acquired taste for some.

Depending on one's point of view, it's either spectacular or spectacularly ugly. But compared to the creaky relic it is replacing, it's a major improvement. Louis Armstrong Stadium, which was twisted into a tennis venue from a World's Fair concert site, will be trimmed down next year and remain a feature court.

Of course, the fans will be paying more for all this change.

Prices for high-end tickets are up about 20 percent, with the top single-session seat now \$613. Most other ticket prices are up 5 to 7%. Still, the USTA expects attendance to increase about 10% above last year's 506,012.

Whether any of the changes will have an effect on the quality of the tennis remains to be seen. There will be no Boris Becker, or Steffi Graf and, based on recent history, probably not much of Andre Agassi.

Becker had planned on making this his last major tournament, but pulled out because of the death of his longtime friend and manager.

Graf, who won last year, is still recovering from knee surgery.

Agassi hasn't played a major tournament since the US Open last year, when he lost to Michael Chang in straight sets in the semifinals.

Chang didn't give Sampras much competition in a straight-sets loss in the final, hot as the No. 2 seed again remains a threat.

So, too, is the women's No. 2, Monica Seles, who has played tournaments for five straight weeks in an effort to regain her fitness and timing and salvage a disappointing year.

For all of that, the tournament still looks like it belongs to Sampras and Hingis, each

of whom was the Australian Open and Wimbledon this year. A decade apart in age, they are ruling their respective worlds in tennis with different styles.

Sampras is the ultimate serve-and-volleyer, perhaps the best in history, but he has a colorless personality that needs someone like Agassi to play off.

"Andre and I had all the ingredients to have something maybe like a Borg-McEnroe with different personalities," Sampras said, acknowledging how much he and tennis miss that rivalry. "Really, Andre and I, what we had a couple of years ago was something pretty special."

Two years ago at the Open, Sampras beat Agassi at his own baseline game in an incredible 22-shot rally that secured the first set and, effectively, the match. Agassi hasn't been the same since.

"At that point, Andre had won 25 straight matches and he worked so hard to get to No. 1 in the world. To come up short at the US Open, the most important tournament we have in the States, I'm sure was very tough to get over."

"He showed glimpses of his form there, but he hasn't been as consistent as I think he should be. So maybe he hasn't quite rebounded. It's something that I'm sure he's thought about... His confidence might not be where it was a couple of years ago, but a couple of matches under his belt, he'll be tough to beat."

Hingis, too, needs a rival, and the only one that seems up to the task at the moment is Seles, who won the Open in 1991 and 1992.

Seles is eminently capable of heating Hingis, but the Swiss teen has repeatedly dominated their matches so far this year.

A baseliiner who can also attack at the net, Hingis has a vibrant personality that can make her a superstar in sports. If she were American, she'd already be one of the most popular athletes in the United States.

Hingis has lost only two matches so far this year - in the French Open final against Iva Majoli, and in a tournament against Lindsay Davenport a few weeks ago. If Hingis wins the US Open, she'll become the tournament's second-youngest champion after Tracy Austin, who was a few months younger when she won in 1979.



TRAPPED - Liverpool striker Karlheinz Riedle (center) is caught between Blackburn Rovers' Colin Hendry and Jeff Kenna (right). (Reuters)

Arsenal shine with double Dutch attack

LONDON (Reuters) - Ian Wright's big day turned into a double Dutch celebration for Arsenal in the Premier League yesterday while Blackburn stayed top thanks to Swedish newcomer Martin Dahlin.

Arsenal's Wright had travelled to Southampton with all eyes on him and his bid to grab the goal that would equal the all-time scoring record of 178 goals for the London club set by Cliff Bastin in the 1930s.

For once the Gunners' big gun, scorer of all their league goals so far this season, was silent as Dutch duo Marc Overmars and Dennis Bergkamp showed off in a 3-1 victory that sent them second in the league.

Blackburn are top on goal difference with seven points, ahead of Arsenal, champions Manchester United and Leicester - who drew 0-0 in a match awash with missed chances - all still unbeaten.

Liverpool, the pre-season favorites for many, led Blackburn 1-0 through a 52nd minute Michael Owen solo goal

until six minutes from the end when Dahlin struck just seven minutes after he came on.

"Their goal was somewhat fortunate in that it came from a bad error on our part," said Blackburn manager Roy Hodgson. "But I am delighted we snuck with the task."

Martin Dahlin scoring his first goal for the club, his first of many we hope, was also very important... He's had to sit on the bench a lot but he took his chance well when he came on and that's what we wanted to see."

The match, pitting Hodgson against his former Internazionale colleague and now Liverpool captain Paul Ince, left Liverpool in 15th place and still searching for a first league win.

Newcastle, reduced to 10-men after the break, beat Aston Villa 1-0 and are the only club left in the Premier League with a 100 percent record. They have played one match less than the top four teams, however.

Arsenal's Overmars scored his first goal in the Premier League

PREMIER LEAGUE table with columns for P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Top teams: Blackburn, Arsenal, Man. Utd., Leicester, Crystal Palace.

DIVISION ONE table with columns for P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Top teams: Nott. Forest, Swindon, Bradford.

DIVISION TWO table with columns for P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Top teams: W. Brom., Peterborough, Charlton.

DIVISION THREE table with columns for P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Top teams: Nott. County, Luton, Walsley.

SCOTTISH PREMIER table with columns for P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Top teams: Rangers, Celtic, Dundee.

Uttley likely to be next rugby boss

LONDON (AP) - Roger Uttley, who coached England to the 1991 Rugby Union World Cup final, is poised to become England's team manager following Jack Rowell's surprise resignation as coach.

Uttley, presently part of the coaching team with defending league champion Wasps, is expected to be named manager at the Rugby Football Union's board later this week. A full-time coach will also be named to replace Rowell.

Rowell, who doubled as manager during most of his 3 1/2 year reign, quit the coaching job last Wednesday, just 48 hours after British Lions coach Ian McGeechan rejected the Twickenham role.

Auckland coach Graham Henry has also turned down the RFU, which has just a week to find a new coach before it is due to unveil its 1999 World Cup coaching team.

Gloucester's Richard Hill, Bath's Clive Woodward and Rob Smith of Wasps are the leading candidates, although the RFU may also look abroad to New Zealand, South Africa or Australia.

Leicester's Bob Dwyer, who coached Australia to World Cup

glory in 1991, is the dark horse, but he insists he is not part of the RFU's plans.

"They're not talking to me," said Dwyer. "Some time ago they talked to me about my thoughts for the future of the game here, but no one actually talked about the coaching job."

Rowell, whose role as coach was on a part-time basis, released a brief statement saying he'd resigned for business reasons.

During his time as coach Rowell led England to a 1995 World Cup semifinal appearance, a Five Nations Championship Grand Slam, three Triple Crowns, and a victory over the Springboks on South African soil 12 months before they were crowned world champions.

His replacement will have little time to settle in as England prepares for a punishing pre-Christmas Test schedule against Australia, New Zealand (twice) and South Africa from November 15 to December 6.

In 1998 England plays in the Five Nations Championship and has summer Tests in the United States, New Zealand (two) Australia and South Africa.

OPINION

Realignment? Maybe Selig should realign his brain

By JENNIFER FREY

Bud Selig can argue that the whole baseball realignment scheme - the radical realignment scheme - makes sense on paper. The lines on the map are neatly drawn. Team travel is reduced. Television start times are more convenient. Scheduling nightmares are reduced. It's even better for newspaper deadlines.

I hate it. I hate it for practical reasons, emotional reasons and ridiculously sentimental reasons.

Most of all, I hate it because I used to live in New York.

There are a lot of good things about living in New York, and a lot of really rotten ones. Baseball, though, was one of the best.

Sports fans in New York are spoiled. They have three hockey teams (if you count the New Jersey Devils, a rather charitable gesture). Two NBA teams (even more charitably counting the Nets). NFL franchises in both conferences. And - best of all - the Yankees and the Mets.

There is something truly wonderful about knowing that you can watch both National League and American League baseball, live. There is something wonderful about knowing that every team from every city - and thus every player in the game, from Ken Griffey Jr. to Greg Maddux - will come through town twice a year. New Yorkers have that blessing. So, too, do fans in Chicago, Southern California and the Bay Area.

do they get? The same teams over and over and over again. New Yorkers get 32 games against the Expos every season. Chicagoans get 32 with the Royals. Folks in San Francisco/Oakland and Los Angeles/Anaheim get an expansion team - the Diamondbacks - 32 times. Blech.

Selig will argue that those cities get instant cross-town (or cross-bridge, or cross-mayor-clogged-Southern California freeways) rivalries. Fair statement. Baltimore Orioles outfielder Jeffrey Hammonds grew up outside New York, in Scotch Plains, NJ. He spent much of his childhood fantasizing about the ultimate "subway series." He figures that Mets-Yankees games would be great for the city. But does he like the realignment plan as a whole?

"I don't know, I don't know," Hammonds said, choosing his words carefully. "I'm used to seeing it the way it is. I'm not afraid of change, but I don't think it's something that I'm qualified to decide."

How valuable will those Mets-Yankees series be if each of those clubs has to spend the rest of the season competing with its cross-town rival to sell tickets to watch the same visiting teams? By August, only a pennant race would keep fans from boredom. For the most part it would simply be: Been there, seen that. And does Major League Baseball really want to do that in four of its biggest markets?

In Orioles territory, people probably don't care much about what will happen to the big four baseball cities. The Orioles, after all,

would stay in the American League, and stay in the same division with the Yankees, Red Sox and Blue Jays. They would have driveable series against the Phillies. They'd get regular visits from the Braves and Maddux. Maybe they'd even start a rivalry with the Mets.

But think of what the Orioles would lose. They would lose half the country. No team west of Detroit would play the Orioles more than three games every two years (excepting playoffs). No team west of Detroit would visit Camden Yards for more than one three-game series every four years.

Depending on scheduling decisions (and potential playoff matchups), it's possible that, under radical realignment, Griffey's final at-bat Friday night was his last in Baltimore until 2001. That Randy Johnson made his last start there for years, if not forever. That, after this season, O's fans might have to wait four years to again see Bob Albert Belle.

"Nobody in the East wants to give up Seattle and the attendance draw they have," B.J. Surhoff said, "and no team on the West Coast wants to give up playing the Yankees."

Surhoff, like many players, is against radical realignment because he thinks the team owners are trying to fix something that isn't broken. He's against it because baseball is finally, slowly, getting back on track. Attendance is improving, and all of a sudden the owners want to blow up the two leagues. He's against it because it would make a terrible mess of the designated hitter issue.

"It's all about internal problems with the

owners, and they can't solve them so they came up with this," Surhoff said. "The justification is that you play more games in the division and I understand that. That's what they do in the NBA. ... But we're different. That's the way it's always been. What are you going to do? Throw away the whole National and American leagues?"

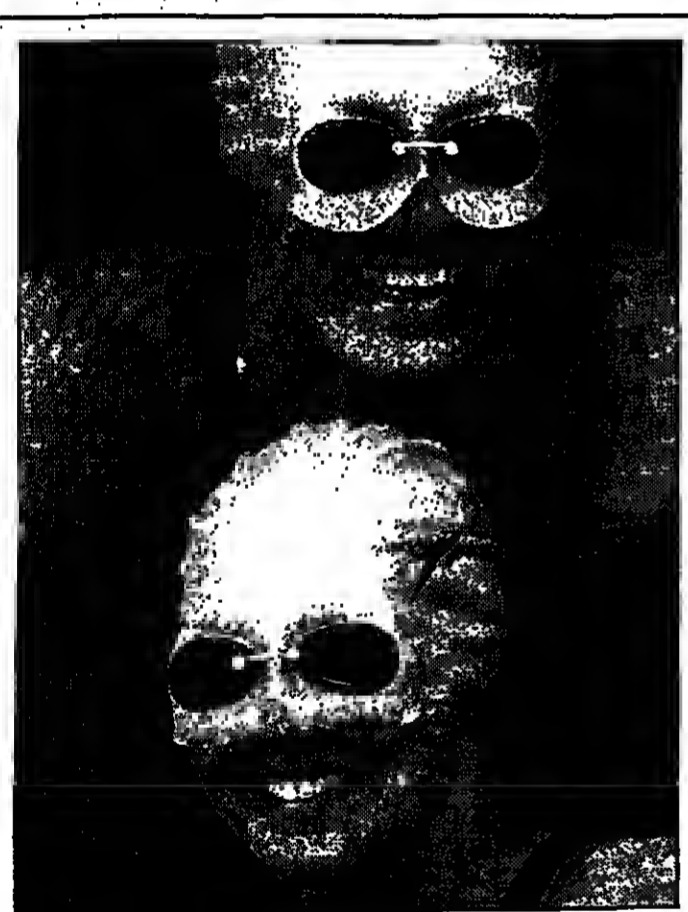
Surhoff's right - this whole issue is not about what the fans want, or how to change baseball for the better, or any of that. It's about scheduling. It's about the fact that interleague play, coupled with the addition of two teams next season, makes baseball scheduling a mess.

And, in the middle of this mess, the owners have two things they want to accomplish: They want to make sure each league gets one of the lucrative new markets. And they want to preserve interleague play.

Interleague play was an attendance success for one simple reason: People want to see new and different faces. They want to see the baseball stars who rarely, if ever, get to their town. And so to preserve that, baseball owners have decided to do what? They've decided to make New Yorkers watch the same baseball teams over and over and over again. They've decided to limit the Orioles' competitors to teams in Detroit and eastward, save for 12 home games a year.

Sure, every team will make it to town eventually - like once every presidential election cycle. In the meantime, though, we'll all have to sit around and watch a whole lot of the same thing.

(Washington Post)



WATER WEAR - Australian Olympic gold medalist Susie O'Neill and fellow champion teammate Michael Klim wear the latest 'Speedmask', an all-in-one cap and goggles to help swimmers go faster.

Speedo unveils friction-free 'Speedmask'

SYDNEY (AP) - Olympic swimming gold medalist Susie O'Neill thought it was all a bit of a giggle. Fellow Australian swimmer Michael Klim felt like an extra-terrestrial.

But in a world where hundreds of a second are crucial, both are prepared to take a serious look at an innovative racing mask from swim-wear manufacturer Speedo that was released Thursday.

The "Speedmask" is a swimming cap with built-in goggles. It covers the ears and stops even with the point of the nose. Its ribbed sides and sleek fit give the swimmers the appearance of something off the popular X-Files sci-fi television series.

The idea is to cut down the drag of water around the goggles.

Researched say eye sockets create 20 percent of the resistance while swimming and believe the mask will smooth out the turbulence between the cap and the goggle and improve the flow of water around the eye sockets by up to 53 percent.

O'Neill, the Atlanta Olympic 200 meter butterfly champion, and Klim, an Olympic relay bronze medal winner, had not seen the mask prior to Thursday's unveiling.

"I actually had a bit of a giggle - it's not what I expected at all," O'Neill said. "But it feels really good. A lot better than what I would have imagined. It feels like I'm in my own private world."

O'Neill said the mask might give her an edge over opponents. "Races go down to a hundredth of a second and I've lost races by that little, and so any little thing can help."

Klim usually swims without a cap, preferring a shaved head, but said he would try out the mask in training. "I'm as intrigued by it as everyone else. It's a bit alien-like when you wear it," Klim said. "Basically I just have to get used to it, but it may be something that will revolutionize swimming."

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

LAST CHANGE

Table listing Israeli companies such as Amex, Nasdaq, and International Shares with their respective stock prices and changes.

Table listing various international companies like Intel, Microsoft, and IBM with their stock prices and changes.

Table listing more international companies including AT&T, General Electric, and Johnson & Johnson.

Table listing international companies such as Boeing, Ford, and General Motors.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

LAST CHANGE

Table listing international shares for companies like Alcoa and Amgen.

Table listing international shares for companies like Amgen and Amgen.

Table listing international shares for companies like Amgen and Amgen.

Table listing international shares for companies like Amgen and Amgen.

WALL STREET REPORT

Dow falls slightly after wild ride

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Wall Street ended a roller-coaster week with a bang on Friday, as blue-chip stocks tumbled and then bounced back to finish with small losses.

Bonds and the dollar headed lower, while gold and silver prices rallied. The Dow Jones industrial average ended a shade lower after bargain-hunters stepped in late in the day and reversed a 177-point drop in the 30-share index.

Table with 'Key Representative Rates' showing US Dollar and Sterling rates.

Table with 'NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES' showing various market indices.

Table with 'OTHER MARKET INDEXES' showing global market indices.

Table with 'DOLLAR CROSSEXTS (US)' showing dollar exchange rates.

Table with 'US COMMODITIES' showing commodity prices.

Table with 'LONDON COMMODITIES' showing London commodity prices.

Table with 'SPOT MARKET METALS (US)' showing metal prices.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

European shares slide

LONDON (Reuters) - Stock markets on both sides of the Atlantic dropped sharply for the second Friday in succession and the dollar also weakened on renewed speculation that German interest rates could rise soon.

Key European markets closed lower, with the Frankfurt bourse sliding 2.27 percent. The Paris CAC 40 fell 1.8 percent.

Table showing European stock market performance.

Table showing international stock market performance.

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CURRENCY REPORT

Dollar tumbles against mark

NEW YORK (AP) - The dollar continued a steep slide against the mark in light, nervous trading Friday, undercut by expectations of higher German interest rates and anxiety over unsettled US financial markets.

But the dollar still is almost 18 percent higher than when it ended last year at 1.5415 marks. The dollar also fell against most other leading currencies Friday, including the British pound, which strengthened to \$1.6093 in late New York trading from \$1.5935 Thursday.

But the dollar rose to 118.31 Japanese yen from 117.20 Thursday. Traders said that purchases of yen with marks Friday also helped push the dollar higher.

Much of the focus in Friday's currency markets was on US financial markets, where stocks were faltering with bonds until a late rebound all but wiped out a 177-point plunge in the Dow Jones industrial average. Attention also turned to the German economy, where inflation jitters persist and expectations are high that interest rates will soon rise.

Since reaching a nearly eight-year high of 1.8832 marks during trading Aug. 5, the dollar has now dropped about 3.5 percent against the mark.

Rising interest rates in Germany would make the mark more attractive because investments in mark-denominated assets would offer higher returns.

Matthew Strauss

Advertisement for Data Communications via Comstock Trading Ltd. in Jerusalem.

Advertisement for 'Opting for a bull's eye, every time?' by TACHLIT.

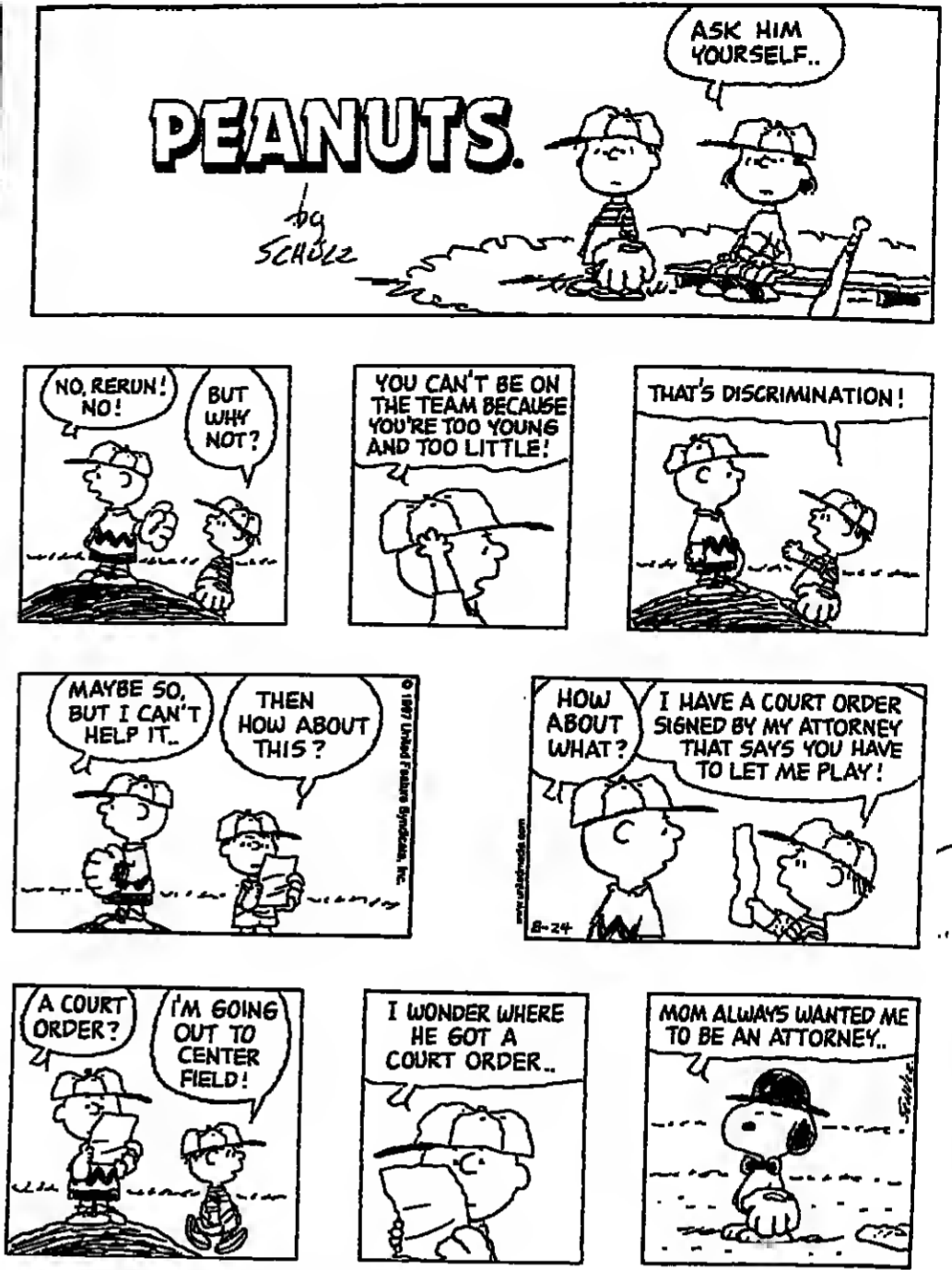
Table titled 'ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS' showing currency deposit rates.

Table titled 'Sheckel Foreign Exchange Rates' showing exchange rates for various currencies.

GARFIELD

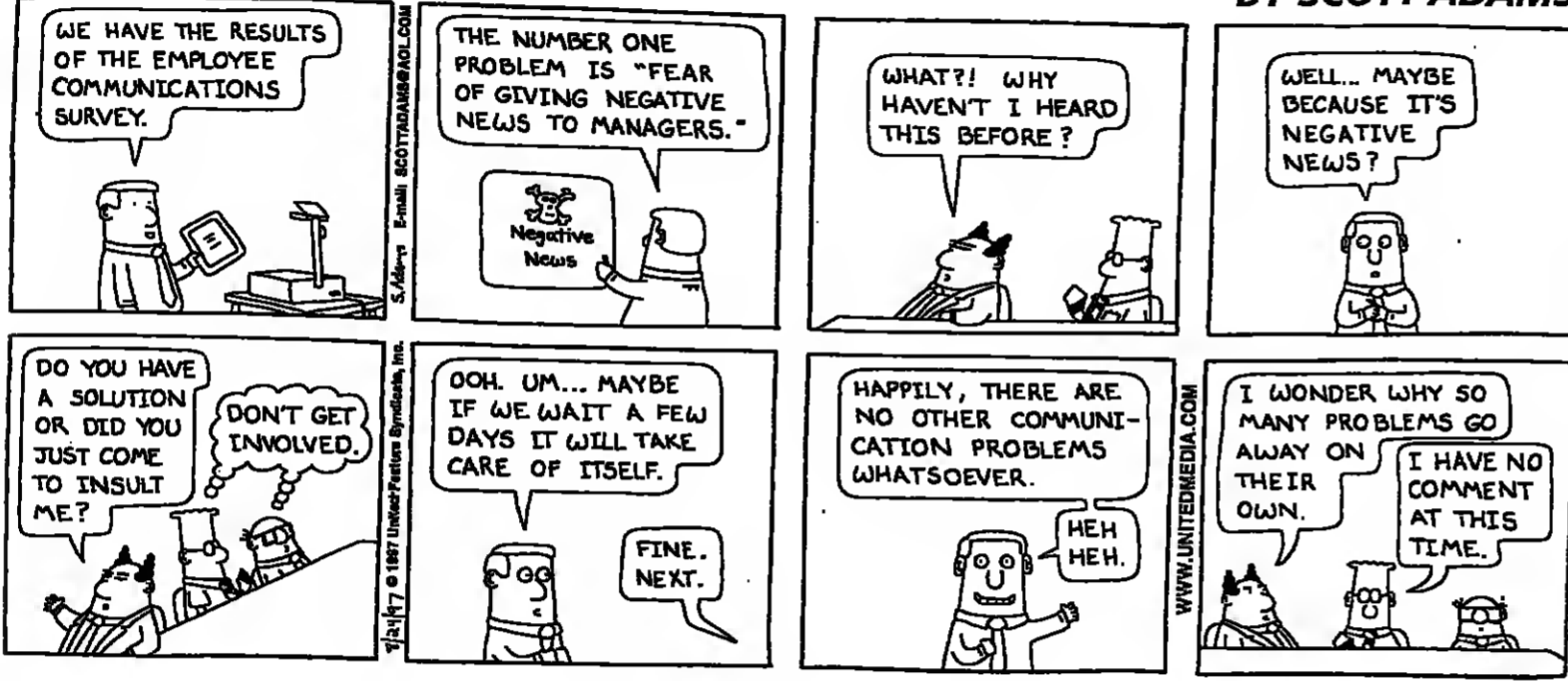


PEANUTS



DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS

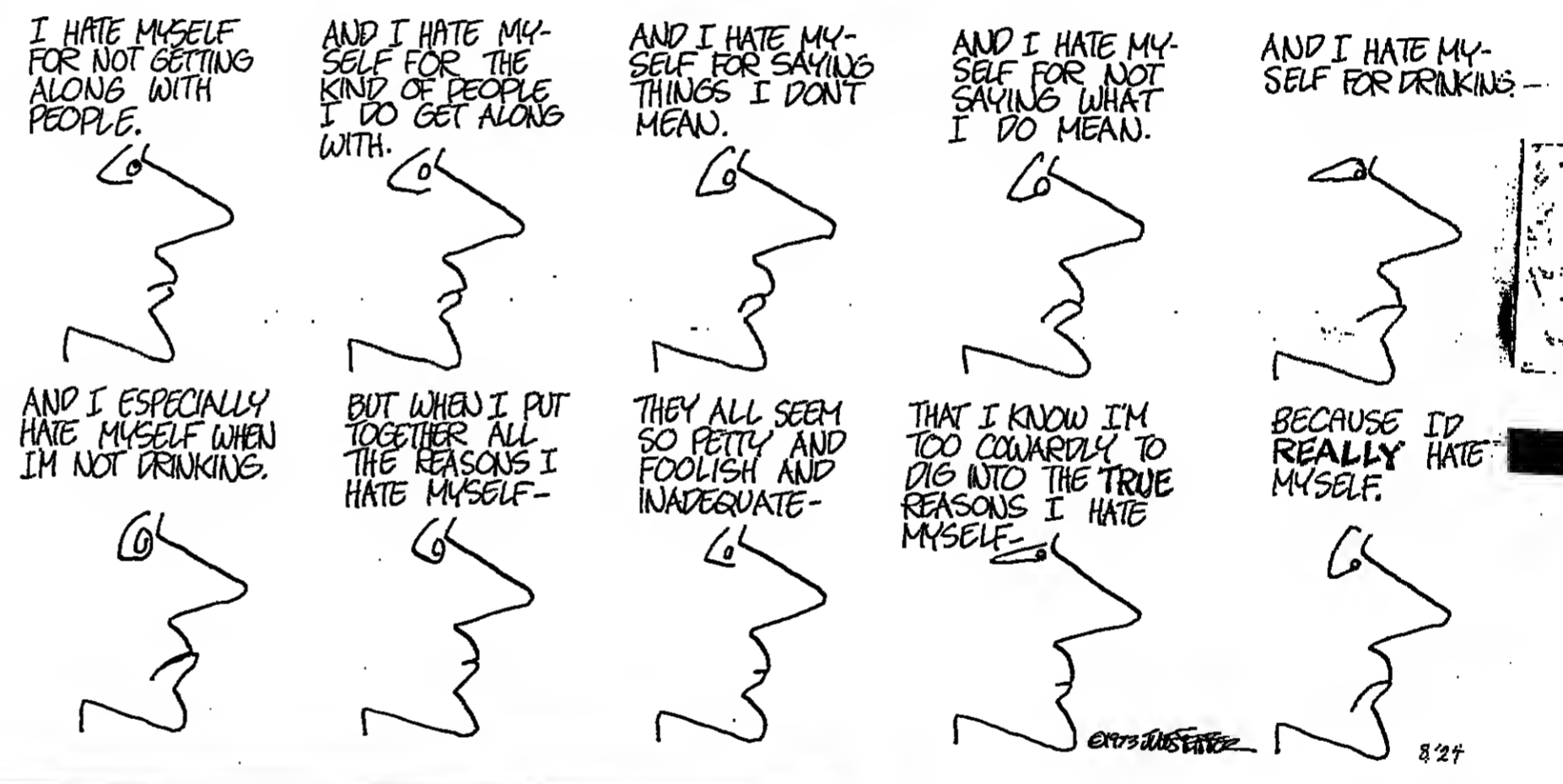


DOONESBURY

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



FEIFFER



Calvin and Hobbes



14

CRITICS' CHOICE

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

Finally something is moving in the rather dull lineup television has had to offer for the past few months. As the school year starts, all the channels are putting out their new schedules and hopefully, we'll get to see a few more quality programs. The Family Channel (3) will air its new schedule beginning this week with a whole new string of local and American programs. Tonight at 9:10 starts the second season of Cafe Paris, a locally produced drama set in a traditional Tel Aviv cafe which tries to compete with newer, trendier bars. Then at 9:35, the Family Channel launches the fifth season of Mad About You, the popular American sitcom with Helen Hunt and Paul Reiser.



Mad about each other: Helen Hunt and Paul Reiser.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

MEN IN BLACK - Barry Sonnenfeld's playful off-beat parody of the Martian-movie genre stars Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith as nattily dressed officers in a top-secret agency designed to keep track of all alien life forms currently residing on planet Earth. The funniest thing about the film, which was written by Ed Solomon from a comic book by Lowell Cunningham, is its crisply matter-of-fact approach to good old worldly law and order. There's something at once knowing and rather resigned about the practical, slightly archaic way in which the MIBs go about their work—crusting their beat, drinking coffee from paper cups, pulling over alien-owned cars to check the driver's license and registration. Clearly, the universe is too vast and mysterious a place to be policed effectively by a few depized mortals in a gas-guzzling Plymouth. Bnt

the agents do what they can to keep the peace, and their actions come to seem logical in a loopy, deadpan way: of course there are Martians on the streets of New York, and of course someone high-up must know about it. The movie pokes gentle fun at conspiracy theories at the same time that it honors them. With Linda Fiorentino, who doesn't have enough to do as a leggy crone/damsel in distress. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance strongly advised).

MICROCOSMOS - This small nature documentary focuses in amazing close-up on the insects, flowers, frogs, and birds in and around a French field. Aside from a few expository sentences spoken by an off-screen narrator, it has no script—and offers no explanations—whatsoever. For an hour and a quarter, we watch this little world from a bug's-eye view, an experience which is at times quite remarkable. The images, one by one, are some of the most astounding you will ever see on screen, moving as they do through a phenomenal parade of nearly sublime shifts in scale. As movie qua movie, Microcosmos is weakened by kitsch celestial music, misty-eyed shots of the meadows and moon, and the disappointing readiness of filmmakers Claude Nuridsany and Marie Perennou to resort to story-telling gimmicks and cheap personifications. But in the end, it doesn't really matter. The film brims with so much natural wonder, it's possible to overlook these cinematic shortcomings and just oggle the ladybugs. (General audiences.)

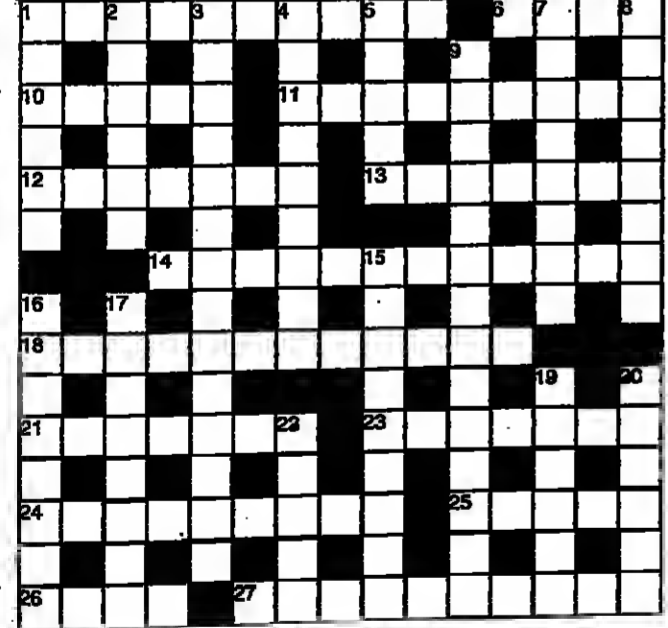
TV schedule table with columns for Channel 1, Educational TV, Channel 4, Channel 1, Middle East TV, Arabic Programs, Hebrew Programs, and Cable.

PRIME TIME TV schedule table with columns for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and rows for 19:30, 20:00, 20:30, 21:00, 21:30, 22:00, 22:30, 23:00.

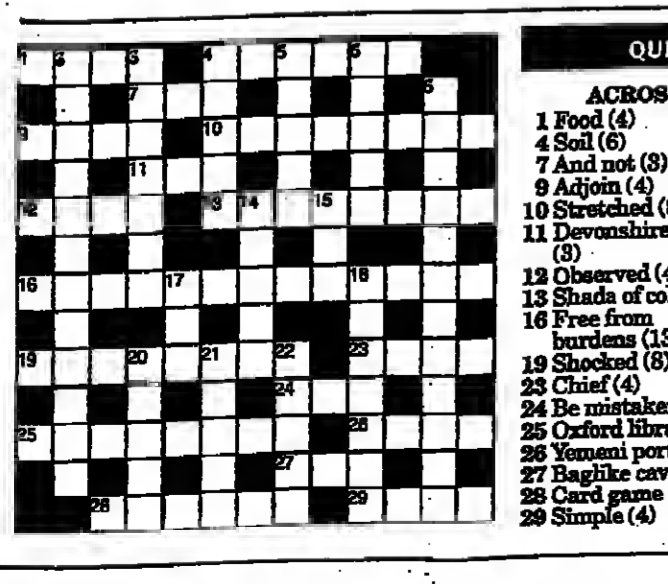


CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD puzzle clues including: 1 Novel objective of a Home Secretary (7,3), 6 Friend left in funereal mantle (4), 10 A board gaining Franco-German agreement (5), 11 Become emotional when told to start work (3,6), 12 Leslie returns to house in Africa (7), 13 Cheated by convict going back to Irish county (7), 14 Sign said note, spelling out names (12), 16 Cash in the hands of water companies (6,8), 21 Ground protected against frost (7).



SOLUTIONS for the cryptic crossword puzzle, including words like: 1. FROST, 2. DRY, 3. FROST, 4. FROST, 5. FROST, 6. FROST, 7. FROST, 8. FROST, 9. FROST, 10. FROST, 11. FROST, 12. FROST, 13. FROST, 14. FROST, 15. FROST, 16. FROST, 17. FROST, 18. FROST, 19. FROST, 20. FROST, 21. FROST, 22. FROST, 23. FROST, 24. FROST, 25. FROST, 26. FROST, 27. FROST, 28. FROST, 29. FROST.



QUICK CROSSWORD solutions including: 1 Food (4), 2 Shortened form (12), 3 Inter-state agreement (7), 4 Mail (5), 5 Frequently (5), 6 Group of nine (5), 7 Bravery (12), 14 Habituate (5), 15 Taxi (3), 17 Meshed fabric (3), 18 Clasp (7), 20 Measuring device (5), 21 Scottish landowner (5), 22 Thick (5).

MOVIES section listing various films such as Austin Powers, The English Patient, and others with their respective showtimes.

MOVIES section listing various films such as Austin Powers, The English Patient, and others with their respective showtimes.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or additional information.

NEWS

in brief

Walker to replace Indyk - report

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has chosen Edward "Ned" Walker, the American ambassador to Egypt, as the next US envoy to Israel, *US News & World Report* said in its September 1 issue, quoting unnamed US sources. Walker would replace Martin Indyk, the magazine reported.

State Department officials, meanwhile, downplayed expectations for Albright's trip to the region next month, saying the trip itself would help her decide what the US should do next to advance the peace process, *US News* said. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Hammer to assume Religious Affairs portfolio

Educacion Minister Zevulun Hammer of the National Religious Party also will become Religious Affairs Minister today - for one year. He will be replacing Interior Minister Eli Shas of Shas, who held the portfolio for the past year.

The NRP and Shas hotly competed over the portfolio when the government was formed last year, and the feud posed a threat to the formation of the coalition until the rotation formula was proposed. Even then, the two parties quarreled further over who would get the ministry first, until the NRP backed down. *Sarah Honig*

State to ask again to extend Ben-Ari's remand

The State Attorney's Office will today request a further remand from the High Court of Justice for Zvi Ben-Ari (Gregory Lerner) who is suspected of being a central organized crime figure here.

Two weeks ago, the court, at the request of the prosecution, had extended Ben-Ari's remand beyond the 90-day period permitted by law. Prosecution officials said Friday that new information had been received from abroad which made further detention necessary.

During the previous hearing for an extension, the court had said that only a "dramatic" development would lead them to extend the remand further. *Batsheva Tsur*

Shahak to receive jail riot report today

The internal IDF inquiry into the events surrounding the bloodless takeover of Prison 6 last month is to be handed over to Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak today.

The report was compiled by Brig. Avraham Asael, who presented it to OC Manpower Maj-Gen. Gideon Sheffer. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Ex-Nazi Priebke loses latest bid for freedom

Former Nazi captain Erich Priebke yesterday lost his latest bid for release from prison after his war crimes conviction.

A military tribunal rejected his appeal of an order upholding his detention. The former SS officer was convicted last month of taking part in a wartime Rome massacre in which 335 civilians lost their lives. *AP*

Israel to advance \$500,000 to Australian athletes

Jerusalem Post Staff

The government said on Friday it was advancing \$500,000 to Australian athletes injured in the collapse of a pedestrian bridge at the Maccabiah Games last month as temporary compensation for the disaster.

The Prime Minister's Office announced the athletes would return the sum once insurance companies, at odds over who was responsible,

pay out claims to those hurt.

The prime minister asked the finance minister today to transfer \$500,000 to the injured of the Maccabiah disaster as a loan until insurance companies transfer the compensation they deserve," a statement said.

The bridge collapse killed four and injured 43. An inquiry found faulty design, materials and construction led to the disaster. Officials of the Australian delegation sought compensation for

the injured.

"The compensation for the casualties has been delayed because of a dispute over the responsibility for the payments between the insurance companies of various bodies involved in the disaster," the statement by Netanyahu's office said.

"The money will be returned to...[Israel] after the injured receive the compensation they deserve from the insurance companies," it said.



Milky Way

Russian flight commander Vasily Tsiibiyev floats aboard the Mir space station while holding a carton of Truva long-life milk, in a commercial for the dairy filmed on July 25 and shown on Channel 2 last week. *(AP)*

WEATHER

Golden 18-27

Haifa 22-30

Tiberias 22-36

Afula 20-32

Samarita 21-29

Tel Aviv 23-30

Jerusalem 20-26

Beer Sheva 25-33

Dead Sea 21-40

Ellet 25-40

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. A drop in temperatures

| | | | |
|--------------|----|----|--------|
| Amsterdam | 17 | 21 | cloudy |
| Berlin | 17 | 21 | cloudy |
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| Sao Paulo | 17 | 21 | cloudy |
| Sydney | 17 | 21 | cloudy |
| Tokyo | 17 | 21 | cloudy |
| Toronto | 17 | 21 | cloudy |
| Zurich | 17 | 21 | cloudy |

Winning cards

In Friday's Chance drawing, the winning cards were the ace of spades, 10 of hearts, jack of diamonds and queen of clubs.

Egyptian union bans filmmaker for Israel visit

CAIRO (Reuters) - Egypt's entertainment arts union has thrown out a film director who visited Israel in violation of its ban against ties with Israel, a newspaper said yesterday.

The government daily *al-Gomhuriya* said the Association of Entertainment Arts Professions passed a decree on Friday to dismiss Hosnan el-Deen Mostafa. He will not be able to work as a director in Egypt without membership in the union. Union officials were not available for comment.

al-Gomhuriya said the association ordered Mostafa's dismissal "for his violation of the association's decree barring any ties with Israel."

"The association described comments made by Hosnan el-Deen Mostafa on a television program on his visit to Israel and his decision to normalize cultural and artistic ties with Israel as damaging to the honor of the profession," the paper said.

Romania's pension move praised

BUCHAREST (Reuters) - Romania's move to award pension rights to expatriates, including thousands of Romanian Jews who have emigrated to Israel, earned praise from international Jewish community leaders on Friday.

"I want to express our gratitude to the Romanian government for its positive attitude towards the communal claims of the Jewish people in Romania and for individual claims for pensions and compensations," said Naphtali Lavie, vice chairman of the World Jewish Restitution Organization.

His statement was a reaction to a ruling made by the Romanian government last month to award pensions to people who emigrated from Romania under the former communist regime.

Arad shuts door on IDF career

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Maj-Gen. Shmuel Arad, outgoing OC Home Front, has turned down a number of offers to remain in the IDF and has decided to quit the service after 31 years. He is to be replaced in the near future by Maj-Gen. Gabi Ofir, former commander of IDF forces in Judea and Samaria.

Arad, 51, has been a quiet critic of Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak for his promotion of younger staff generals,

sidelining those with more experience. Arad's decision to quit came after last week's announcement that Brig-Gen. Yom Tov Samia, 43, was being promoted to major-general and given the choice post of OC Southern Command. Samia replaces Maj-Gen. Shlomo Yanai, 45, who takes over as head of the Planning Branch.

It is not the first time that Shahak has overlooked older officers. Last year, Arad reportedly took his complaint to then-defense

minister Shimon Peres to protest the situation. Arad continued to protest to his former colleague Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. The pair met recently and Mordechai offered Arad a number of positions and encouraged him to remain in the service.

But after consultations with Shahak and Mordechai, the IDF Spokesman announced last night, Arad decided to end his post in the near future and would muster out of the military.

Lithuania denies Lileikis case stalling

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP) - Lithuania denied accusations Friday that it has stalled prosecution to protect a former American citizen suspected of helping Nazis kill Jews during World War II.

The government was responding to accusations from the Wiesenthal Center, the Baltic News Service said.

The center has long urged that 89-year-old Aleksandras Lileikis and other suspected Nazi collaborators be brought to trial.

Lithuania's prosecutor general has refused to indict Lileikis, who is in poor health, until doctors say he is healthy enough to withstand questioning.

New legislation is being prepared that would allow the interrogation of suspected war criminals

regardless of their health, government spokesman Kestutis Cilinskas said in a statement, according to the news service.

Lileikis is accused of running a secret police force from 1941 to 1944 in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius during the Nazi occupation.

He fled to Lithuania last year after he was stripped of his American citizenship. US officials were preparing to deport him for concealing his wartime activities when he arrived in the US in 1955.

An estimated 40,000 Jews are believed to have been killed in Vilnius between 1941 and 1944.

Meshulam supporters indicted

Four of Uzi Meshulam's supporters were indicted in Tel Aviv District Court on Friday for maliciously endangering public safety and causing damage. They were remanded until tomorrow, when the court will hear a request they be remanded until the end of the legal proceedings.

Eren Gabai, 22, of Petah Tikva, Sinai Hassan, 25, of Rosh Ha'ayin, and two minors were accused of tampering with traffic lights at four major intersections.

Attorney Tova Perry, of the central region district attorney's office, said that Hassan's fingerprints were found on one of the traffic lights, and that he was arrested next to another one, while driving a car without having a driver's license. The four caused NIS 70,000 in damage to each traffic light, she said.

Meanwhile, Menahem Shrama, who is suspected of bombing the Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court, had his remand extended until tomorrow. Shrama, also a Meshulam supporter, was arrested last Monday, shortly after a pipe bomb went off in the court, causing serious damage. *(Iim)*

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